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'We didn't do it,' say Lawrence gang. But few believed them

By KATHY MARSH

THE FIVE men suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence were thumped and pelted with bottles by an enraged crowd yesterday after a day of evasive and implausible evidence that made a mockery of their appearance before the public inquiry.

David Norris, 21, stonewalled questions about his father, Clifford, a professional gangster at the centre of corruption allegations. Luke Knight, 22, claimed he was a reformed character who welcomed the contribution of black people to British society. Gary Dobson, 23, said that he used a knife found in his girlfriend's bedroom as a gardening tool.

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Family convinced of guilt page 5

up considerably yesterday, with hundreds of police officers on duty in and around Hannibal House, the government office block in Elephant and Castle, south London, where the public inquiry sits.

Although Jamie and Neil Acourt completed their evidence on Monday, they turned up again yesterday, presumably to lend moral support to the others. Cries of "murderers!" from the public gallery greeted the appearance of each of the three witnesses.

The volatile mood sparked by the men's appearance over the past two days exploded into a riot yesterday afternoon outside Hannibal House.

Tensions had been rising for more than an hour as hundreds of angry demonstrators waited outside the nearby shopping centre for the five to depart. When they finally emerged, looking nervous for the first time, the crowd erupted, hurling missiles and chasing them to the doors of the minibus that whisked them away.

The protesters then occupied the busy three-lane highway, bringing traffic to a halt. Bottles were thrown at police, and scuffles broke out. As the atmosphere grew increasingly ugly, riot police took up their shields. The stand-off was only defused when a member of the Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign issued a plea over a megaphone on behalf of the Lawrence family.

During another set of questions, Mr Mansfield accused him of seeking prompts from his mother, Theresa, who was watching him give evidence.

"I've been looking at you the whole time," Norris replied. "I don't even know where my mother is sitting in this room."

At that, Mrs Norris, a hard-faced woman with bleached-blond hair, called out: "Here, Dave." He waved at her, saying "Hi, mum." She then squirmed for the next half hour as Mr Lawrence moved seats and stared fixedly at her.

After the chaos caused by the invasion of the chamber by Nation of Islam activists on Monday, security was stepped



Running the gauntlet of an angry crowd after three of them gave evasive evidence to the inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence yesterday are the men suspected of killing him. From left, Luke Knight, Neil Acourt (partially hidden by the man in a blue shirt), David Norris, Jamie Acourt and Gary Dobson

Paul Hackett

murder squad were "nonsense". He denied visiting his father in Lewes Prison in 1995 with Dobson and Neil Acourt. When shown police surveillance photographs of the group taken in Sussex, he said they had been on a fishing trip. His barrister,

Charles Conway, was overruled when he objected to further questions, saying: "You should not be visiting on the son the sins of his father."

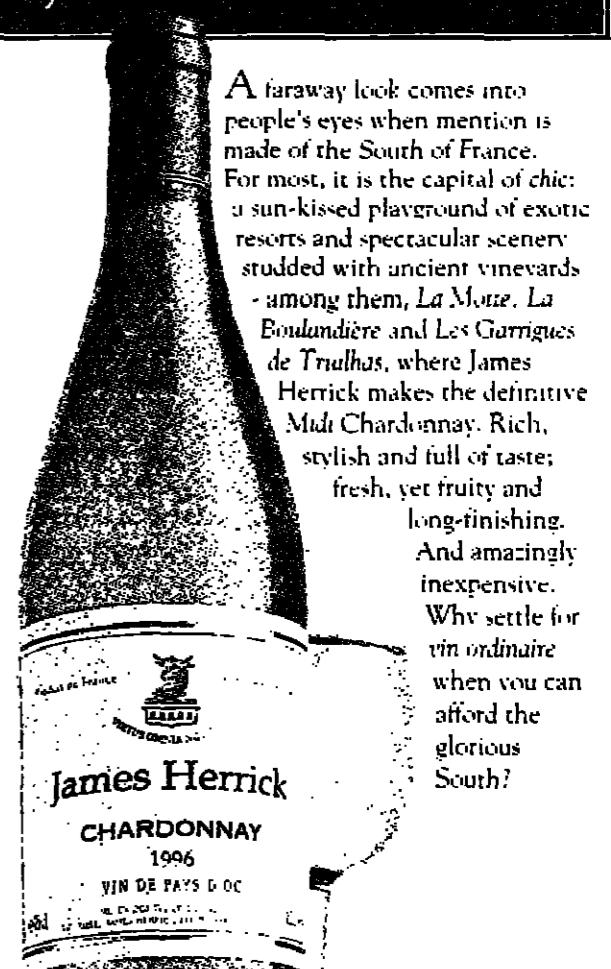
Knight also with a bleached-blond mother in tow, denied shouting "black bastards!" at

demonstrators when he left the inquiry on Monday night. "I kept my head down," he said. "I just wanted to get out of there as quick as I could."

Knight was more subdued in the witness box than Norris, but he stuck obstinately to the

script followed by the others. Dobson was the most cocky of the three. Asked repeatedly why the long-bladed knife was hidden in his girlfriend's bedroom, he replied: "I've told you already. Mr Mansfield, I can't remember."

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US aircraft fires missile at Iraqi radar

TENSION BETWEEN the United States and Iraq escalated sharply yesterday, raising fears of a fresh confrontation in the Gulf, after US aircraft fired a missile at an anti-aircraft battery near the Iraqi port of Basra.

The attack took place after four British *Tornado* aircraft patrolling the no-fly zone over southern Iraq found themselves targeted by hostile radar.

All the planes returned safely to base, Iraq fired back verbally, saying that the attack was unprovoked and denied that Iraqi

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington
and RUPERT CORNWELL

radar had been involved and said the episode could be "a step towards new all-out aggression" by the West.

The patrol was part of routine allied efforts to police the skies over Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War.

Iraq's relations with the West had been warming in the last few weeks, with the United Nations arms inspector,

Richard Butler, holding out tentative hopes that sanctions on Baghdad might be relaxed. Foreign policy analysts have long expected another clash with Iraq, but not until October, when the sanctions are next due to be assessed. Iraq has periodically raised the stakes in its continuing stand-off with the allied forces, only to step back from confrontation.

The timing of the episode may reflect Baghdad's desire to remind allied commanders that the Iraqi forces are still there -

or vice versa. Despite the decline in tension, the US is still keen to show it is not relaxing its stance against Iraq. It has increased pressure in the last week, saying Iraq had placed VX nerve gas in missile warheads

"We're hoping that the situation won't escalate. It certainly was a signal that we sent that our forces are going to fly the no-fly zone," said US Defense Secretary, William Cohen.

President Bill Clinton was told of the incident when he

returned to his hotel in China yesterday.

It may have decided to capitalise on the fact that the US is engaged with other key foreign policy issues - China, Kosovo and nuclear tensions in south Asia. The US has pulled down its forces in the Gulf following the confrontation earlier this year, when America moved extra carrier-borne forces and aircraft to the region after a stand-off between UN arms inspectors and Saddam Hussein's regime. Any increase

in tension would require the US to increase its forces again, just as it is preparing for the possible use of air strikes in Kosovo.

At the Ministry of Defence in London, officials confirmed that all the coalition aircraft returned safely after what they termed a "routine patrol", and said a detailed analysis of the episode was underway. Downing Street hailed the swift response to the locking-on as proof of the "close and effective relationship between the US and the UK on these matters".

Rare moment of solidarity before big match

ENGLAND AND Argentina supporters drank and socialised together in the French town of St Etienne last night in advance of England's most important football match for eight years. In the main square the atmosphere was expectant but good-humoured as the rival fans watched the Croatia ver-

By ANDREW BUNCOMBE
in St Etienne

sus Romania match on a large screen. At one point crowds of rival fans stood and sang at each other; some were even reported to have staged impromptu football games.

In England, the match - the

most important for the national team since losing the semi-final against Germany in 1990 - attracted the usual massive television audience, emptying streets, town centres and anywhere without a screen. Official estimates suggested 15,000 England fans were due to arrive in the town in advance

of the kick-off, but as these estimates have been wrong for all previous England matches, it is likely there were several thousand more in town. Before the match, many were still struggling to get match tickets, with touts asking £700-£800. Most fans were refusing to pay that much and

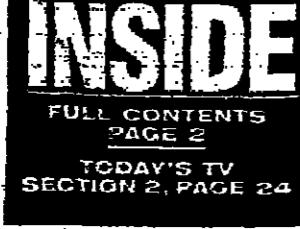
instead were holding their nerve in the hope prices would drop as kick-off approached.

Police yesterday expressed concerns about up to 30 Argentine hooligans - the so-called *barra brava* - believed to be in St Etienne. The Argentine police intelligence say they know who these people are and they

are watching them," said a British police source.

Among the 5,000 Argentine supporters estimated to be in St Etienne, there were also believed to be two dozen political activists planning to use last night's game to draw attention to the Falklands dispute.

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James Herrick
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HOME NEWS/3

Royal Opera House: Report condemns high salaries, extravagant expenditure and poor business practices

Eyre: Put your House in order

BY DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

AN ASTONISHING picture of Royal Opera House staff on high salaries, failing to submit a business plan, and giving out free tickets to the London glitterati, is painted in a damning report by Sir Richard Eyre.

Sir Richard's review calls for more subsidy for the Opera House and for the arts in general. He also expresses his horror at some of the management practices and calls for the Royal Opera House to put its house in order.

But yesterday Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, ruled out any increase in subsidy until he was satisfied that the Opera House had taken remedial action. And he poured

scorn on a request by the ROH chairman, Sir Colin Southgate, for a doubling of grant. Sir Colin has threatened not to reopen Covent Garden next year unless he gets the money.

Sir Richard did not put a figure on a subsidy increase for the ROH, though he said yesterday that the performing arts generally needed a further £60m. He and Mr Smith also ruled out the ROH and English National Opera sharing a venue, the Royal Ballet moving out of Covent Garden, and the privatisation of the ROH.

After 18 months of scandal, most people felt there was little scope for further revelations about the running of the ROH. But Sir Richard, former director of the National Theatre, has confounded them.

He said yesterday that a six-figure sum was being squandered annually on giving away free tickets. "I regard this practice as unjustifiable, indefensible and ineffectual as a marketing strategy... if you go to a first night you look around and there are the London glitterati who are there for free. And this is public money."

But the most striking revelation of all was that Sir Richard could not put a figure on the extra subsidy needed because the new management had failed to produce a business plan. He says in his report, which was commissioned by the Government: "In particular,

the new Royal Opera House board has submitted no business plan for the reopened Covent Garden Theatre, and no artistic or business plan for the studio theatre."

At the ROH helm at present are two business experts. Sir Colin Southgate, who is also chairman of EMI, and Pelham Allen, seconded from the accountants Coopers & Lybrand.

Salaries at the Royal Opera House are also too high according to the report. Sir

Richard said yesterday: "If you compare the ROH to the RSC or National Theatre there are two-thirds [more] employees at the ROH on over £30,000 a year than the other theatres."

Successive boards of the great and the good are also castigated. He writes in his report: "There is a well-aimed history of inadequacy on the part of successive boards at the Royal Opera House. The only reason I can ascribe to this inadequacy is that there was such a

strong social cachet attached to being a member of the Royal Opera House Board... and this encouraged board members to be dissident about their responsibilities. It seems, as Brecht complained about theatre audiences, that they 'left their wits with their hats'."

He is scathing too about the expensive use of consultants. "The Royal Opera House has invested excessive faith - and expenditure - in the use of consultants."

Sir Richard calls for a London-wide strategy to improve the education work of the companies, a ticket-pricing structure which attracts new audiences, and a change in the culture that puts reaching new audiences at the heart of everything it does.

Sir Richard criticises the lack of communication in the organisation. "All too often the situation resembles a First World War battlefield, where the poor bloody infantry are trying

to fulfil a strategy about which they haven't been consulted."

In a statement, the board of the Royal Opera House called the Eyre Report "objective, thorough and passionate" and said it had already ensured greater access with a commitment to reducing ticket prices.

Mr Smith has given the Royal Opera House one month to come forward with a plan to answer the report's criticisms. Leading article Review page 3



Sir Richard Eyre: Criticised salary levels at the Royal Opera House, its lack of a business plan and 'excessive faith' in outside consultants

Adrian Dennis

Pure theatre at Downing St, with a cast list to die for



BY DAVID LISTER

IT WAS, said one participant, "pure theatre". Certainly it had a cast list to die for, and a climax worthy of a West End drama. In the opulent Cabinet Room, the nation's leading arts figures declaimed their fears and resentment about government policy. Cool Britannia and ministers' obsessions with film, fashion and pop had led to a neglect of the high arts.

Tony Blair listened, took his cue and, after a dramatic pause, gave a high-temperature performance that had critics almost applauding. "I believe in investment in the arts," one of those present recalls him saying, "but how do I know you're spending my money correctly?"

Like all performers with a new star, the company raised their performance in return. "We in the arts could be help-

producer or fashion designer in sight."

The art-world representatives were the conductor Sir Simon Rattle, National Theatre chief executive Genista McIntosh, Barbican Centre managing director John Tusa, National Gallery director Neil MacGregor, former National Theatre director Sir Richard Eyre, broadcasters Melvyn Bragg and Trevor Phillips, the head of Scottish Opera, Ruth McKenzie, dance expert Shobana Jeyasingh, and the chief executive of Wolverhampton Council, Derek Anderson, who has been involved in the move to the city of the D'Orsay Carte opera.

Mr Blair set the parameters for discussion. They were finance, reform and change, education, access and institutions.

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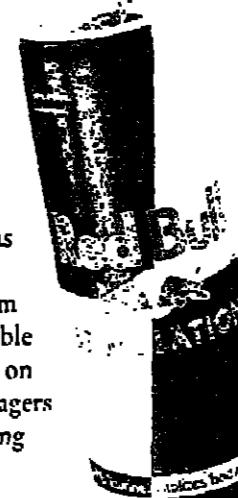
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Their monotonous replies showed the degree of hatred and contempt



The five youths run the gauntlet as they leave the inquiry yesterday. Some in the crowd threw eggs

THE FULL hatred and contempt of the young men suspected of the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence emerged during yesterday's evidence at the inquiry.

The other three suspects were questioned - following the appearances of Jamie and his brother Neil Acourt on Monday - and attempted to stonewall questions with monotonous responses of "I don't know" or "I can't remember".

Michael Mansfield, QC, for the Lawrence family, questioned David Norris by firstly producing a claw hammer head attached to an 18-inch leather strap which police had discovered in the bedroom of the 21-year-old.

Damning the vicious-looking device, which drew gasps from the packed inquiry room, Mr Mansfield asked: "Have you ever touched this?"

David Norris responded: "No."

MM: "It was found in a bedroom occupied by you, in clothing belonging to you. As you will see it cannot have an innocent use."

DN: "Not by the look of it, no."

MM: "It's like Chinese rice flails, to do damage to someone."

DN: "Dunno. I presume so."

MM: "You could give no explanation as to how this offensive weapon ended up in your bedroom?"

DN: "No."

MM: "And that is the truth is it?"

DN: "Yes. I am under oath."

Mr Mansfield repeatedly attempted to find out where Mr Norris had been on the night of 5 May 1993 when detectives went to arrest him in connection with the murder of Stephen Lawrence. Mr Norris repeatedly replied: "I can't remember."

MM: "Oh please Mr Norris!"

DN: "I was at home."

MM: "On the 10th you gave yourself up to the police accompanied by your mother. You knew you were being arrested because of the murder. So you must have been keen to establish where you were on that evening?"

DN: "Yes."

MM: "Where were you?"

DN: "Can't remember."

Mr Conway, representing Mr Norris, objected that the High Court had ruled that questions of guilt or innocence of the five in relation to the murder could not be posed at the inquiry. But Sir William Macpherson, the inquiry chairman, told him: "The policing on the night and the door-to-door enquiries are relevant."

MM: "Were you at 102 Bournebrook Road [the home of Jamie and Neil Acourt] between 11pm and 12am on the 22nd?"

DN: "Can't remember."

MM: "Well, you jolly well try. There was a murder on that night which was the talk of the town. Somebody known to you went around to 102 at that time and there was a conversation about the murder." Mr Mansfield read out a statement by Mr Norris to the inquiry in which he said he had first heard of the murder when his mother told him the police had come to speak to him. Mr Norris agreed this was "some time after 7th May".

MM: "Did you go to 102 Bournebrook Road at all during the two-week period after the murder?"

DN: "I don't think so. I am not sure."

MM: "Did you know observation was being kept on that address and photos taken?"

DN: "No. Why should I?"

MM: "On Monday 26th did you go in a vehicle owned by Darren Davis?"

DN: "Dunno."

MM: "What relative is he to you?"

DN: "Cousin."

MM: "That vehicle was outside 102. Ring any bells?"

DN: "No."

MM: "You were in that vehicle."

DN: "Don't remember."

MM: "There was another person, Mr Dobson [Gary Dobson]. The two Acourts refused to answer any questions from the police. The one person who did talk was Dobson but the only thing he did not talk about was you. This was to protect you."

The inquiry was told about David Norris's father, Clifford

use the word "nigger"?"

DK: "I don't know."

Mr Knight was asked about a video in which he and three of the other suspects had been heard making racist comments. Mr Knight was asked how Mr Acourt felt about it now.

LK: "I said some very immature things. I feel very embarrassed by it."

Mr Lawson referred to a statement by Mr Knight in the video where he refers to a "fucking nigger country" and goes on to abuse a TV commentator who says that Cameroon should win a football match. "Why should he want fucking Cameroon to win it?" Mr Knight says.

He also referred to Neil Acourt saying that he would like to "chop the arms and legs off the fucking niggers and leave them with the stumps".

EL: "What do you have to say about that?"

LK: "It was a bad thing to say. It was silliness. It didn't mean anything."

He was the questioned by Mr Mansfield who asked: "As opposed to immaturity, you - when you left here last night and got outside - shouted back 'Black bastards'."

LK: "No."

MM: "You saw what Jamie Acourt and Neil did. They were cocky and arrogant as usual. Jamie Acourt spat at the crowd right in front of you and you didn't see it?"

LK: "I only saw it on the news."

MM: "And Neil Acourt was making a two-fingered gesture. You saw that?"

LK: "No, I kept my head down."

MM: "Is immaturity the best line you could come up with? Do you now have no problems with black people?"

Do you feel they make a major contribution to this country?"

LK: "I am perfectly happy with them."

MM: "What's changed your views since 1994?"

LK: "I have got older."

Mr Mansfield said that much of the video showed Neil Acourt in his living room slashing curtains and furniture with a knife.

MM: "This is fucking about, is it? When does fucking about stop?"

LK: "When you hurt someone."

MM: "Acourt thrust the knife into your chair. Acourt says 'did it right in, so all you have to do is just that'. What was he doing?"

LK: "I don't know."

MM: "He was showing you how to stab someone, wasn't he?"

LK: "Don't know."

The final witness was 23-year-old Gary Dobson. Michael Mansfield was stopped by Sir William Macpherson from pursuing a line of questioning about the night of the murder of Stephen Lawrence.

MM: "Jamie and Neil at 102 [102 Bournebrook Road, the Acourts' address] what were they doing?"

GD: "No reply."

MM: "Were they washing clothes?"

GD: "No."

MM: "Was there blood on their hands ...?"

Sir William interjected: "I would ask you to be careful. I am under an injunction from the High Court and so are you."

Mr Dobson was asked about carrying knives. He at first denied ever carrying a knife in public, but later under questioning admitted he had carried a Stanley knife. He added: "Sometimes I come home with it and sometimes I leave it at work. It's not for the reason you are saying. Sometimes I bring my tools home to make sure they are not stolen."

Mr Mansfield asked Mr Dobson about an incident where he had threatened a black colleague, whom he had referred to as "a nigger", with the Stanley saying: "I would slice you down with this seven times." But Mr Dobson claimed it was just "mucking about".

Asked by Mr Mansfield why he had referred to black people as "niggers" in a surveillance video and used other racist terms he responded: "Because I was angry because I was accused of a murder I had never committed."

Mr Mansfield pointed out that by the time the surveillance video was made Mr Dobson and his friends no longer faced a murder prosecution.

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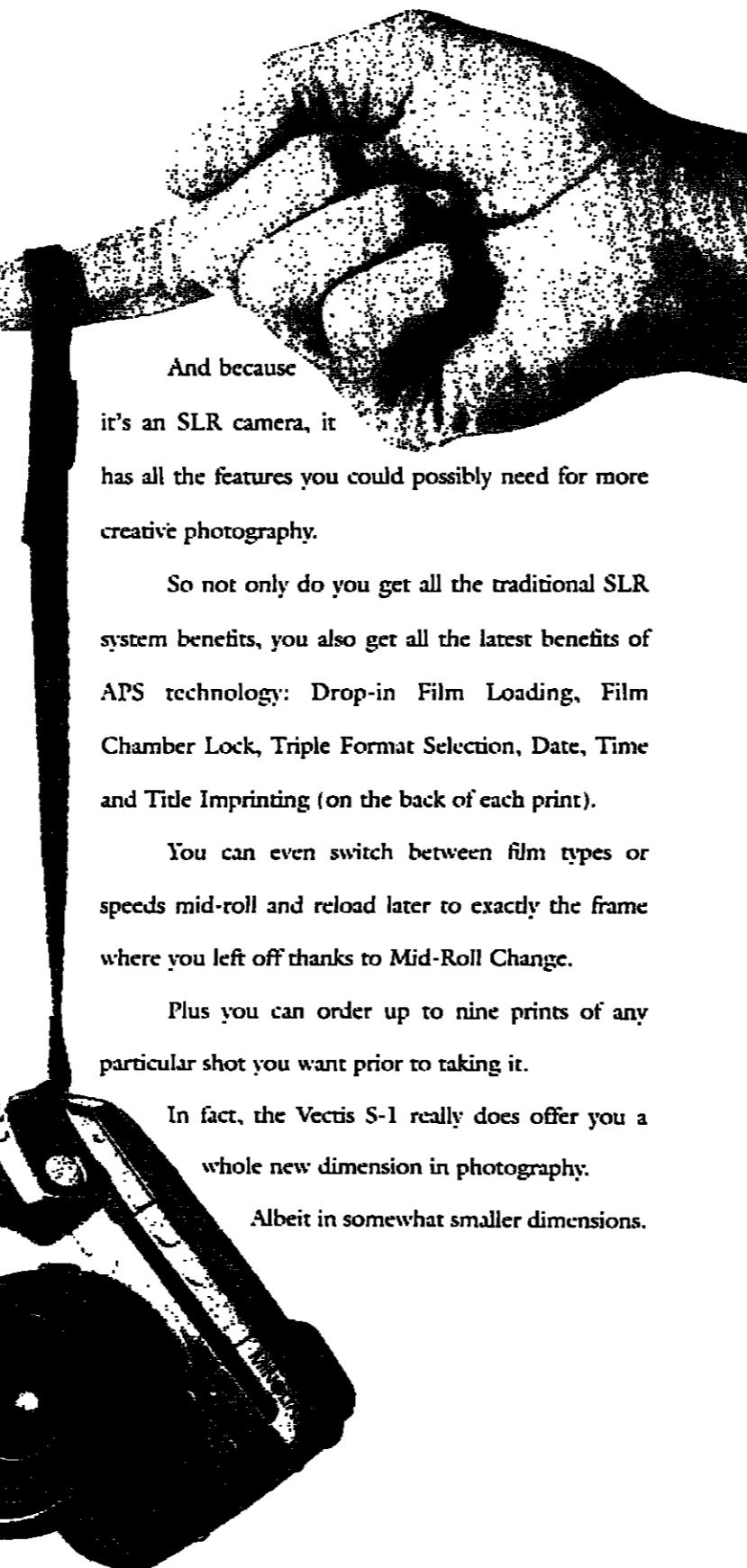
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Up to 1000

Family are more convinced than ever of guilt

STEPHEN Lawrence's family made it plain yesterday that after hearing the evidence of all five prime suspects, they were more convinced than ever of their guilt. They also expressed their disgust at an unprecedented statement in which the five denied involvement in his death.

"They killed Stephen; they murdered Stephen; these are the bastards who killed my nephew," said Cheryl Sloley, sister of Doreen Lawrence. To loud cheers, she added: "Somehow, some way, they are going to pay for what they did."

Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen, were met by applause from hundreds of their supporters when they arrived at the rally, held in a warehouse in the Elephant and Castle shopping complex in south London.

His voice shaking with emotion, Mr Lawrence told the crowd: "Today was a very difficult day for me. Yet again I had to stand there and listen to people telling lies, and there was nothing I could do about it. To have to stand there and watch these people walk away, it is not easy for me."

The rally was held after a tense stand-off between police and demonstrators was defused by a coordinator of the Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign. Addressing the angry crowds through a megaphone, he said: "The Lawrence family are asking you to disperse. Please follow the family's wishes. We know where these boys live and we

BY KATHY MARKS

will do something about it, but not here."

Mr Lawrence said that the statement – in which the five expressed sympathy with the Lawrences for "the tragic loss of their son" – had added to his distress. "This comes from people who over the past years have been attacking black people and calling them names," he said, referring to a police surveillance video in which they are seen brandishing knives and uttering racist abuse.

He said that he and his wife wanted to express their gratitude to the large numbers of people who had attended the inquiry over the past two days, and to those who had turned up regularly over the three months since it began.

"It is sad to see that it has taken something so tragic to bring us all together," he said, adding to applause: "I hope we can all fight for what we want together." He said he would also continue to campaign for victims of other racist murders.

The handwritten statement by Jamie Acourt, Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris, issued after they had completed their evidence, was the first they had made. It contained numerous spelling mistakes, including the wrong spelling of Stephen's name. Headed "The statement on behalf of all five of us" it said: "In 1993 we were all arrested for the murder of Steven Lawrence,

which we all vehemently deny.

"We do sympathise with Mr and Mrs Lawrence and the tragic loss of their son. We understand their quest to discover what happened to their son and why no one has been convicted of his murder. We have no knowledge of this murder, we were not involved, we did not kill Steven Lawrence."

The statement noted that three of them had been acquitted of the murder and the case against the other two was dropped for lack of evidence. "Throughout all these proceedings, there has never

been a case against us which stands up to any form of scrutiny," it said. "Five years have now past (sic) and we are still being forced to prove our innocence, despite being acquitted.

"We continue to be portrayed as guilty men. Our lives have been changed for ever – we will fight these accusations until we are satisfied that our names have been cleared. It is time for us to say enough is enough – we are innocent. We think it is time the public heard this from ourselves."

The five said that they had not put across their side of the story before because they knew their words would be "manipulated or distorted" by the media. "Others have used the media – this case has been twisted and sensationalised," they said.

Mrs Lawrence was too upset to speak in public yesterday.

Asad Rehman, a member of the family campaign, who addressed the rally, referred to the violent scenes which accompanied the departure of the youths. "I tell you one thing, they did not look so cocky when they left today," he said.

IT WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT WE HAVE ALL BEEN ARRESTED FOR THE MURDER OF STEPHEN LAWRENCE, WHICH WE ALL VEHMENTLY DENY. WE DO SYMPATHISE WITH MR & MRS LAWRENCE AND THE TRAGIC LOSS OF THEIR SON. WE UNDERSTAND THEIR QUEST TO DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR SON AND WHY NO ONE HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF HIS MURDER.

WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MURDER, WE HAVE NOT INVESTIGATED, WE DID NOT KILL STEPHEN LAWRENCE.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT WE HAVE BUILT A WALL OF SILENCE AROUND OURSELVES. THE TRUTH IS, THAT WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN TO SPEAK UP FOR STEPHEN LAWRENCE. OTHERS HAVE BEEN THE HEAVY – THIS CASE HAS BEEN TWISTED AND SENSATIONALISED.

WE HAVE BEEN POWERLESS TO HAVE OUR SIDE PUT ACROSS, OR OUR ACCOUNT GIVEN, WITHOUT FEAR OF OUR WORDS BEING MANIPULATED OR DISTORTED FOR THE MEDIA'S SENSATIONALISM.

WE HAVE HAD TO DEFEND OURSELVES.

WE HAVE HAD TO DEFEND OURSELVES.</p

Truants to be allowed time off school

PERSISTENT TRUANTS will be able to spend up to a day a week in the workplace under changes in the law to be announced today.

Disaffected pupils between the ages of 14 and 16 will be offered the chance to drop some academic subjects and spend time either at a further education college or at work.

Headteachers warned last night that the chance to escape from school would be seen by some other pupils as a reward for truancy. John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the changes were "the tabloid answer of a tabloid government to the problem of truancy".

However, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, believes that un-

By JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

gent action is needed to help pupils who have rebelled against school. He thinks that they can be remotivated by contact with the world of work.

Around 45,000 pupils each year leave school without any qualifications and at least one million pupils truant each year.

Ministers are also con-

cerned about the social cost of crime: 65 per cent of school-age offenders sentenced in court are persistent truants or have been excluded from school. A report from the Government's Social Exclusion Unit said:

"Many of today's non-attenders are in danger of becoming tomorrow's criminals and unemployed."

Primary pupils' syllabus cut back

By JUDITH JUDD

PRIMARY SCHOOLS will be free to teach less history and music and more reading and maths under government proposals released yesterday.

The changes dismantle much of the primary national curriculum, introduced less than a decade ago, although schools will still have to teach all nine subjects.

Ministers published advice for teachers from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on how to cut down history, geography, art, music, design and technology and physical education to make room for a daily literacy hour and an hour of maths. Detailed legal requirements for subjects other than English, maths and science are being dropped.

Critics fear that schools will downgrade subjects such as music but teachers welcomed the reductions.

Estelle Morris, the Schools minister, insisted that primary schools must still provide a broad and balanced curriculum, and denied that the changes would cause problems for secondary schools who would not know which topics pupils had covered. "Pupils have been prevented from accessing the secondary school curriculum because of a lack of literacy and numeracy," she said.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, welcomed the decision to cut down the compulsory curriculum but questioned the continuing requirement to teach swimming. "Many other subjects would have equal if not better claims to compulsory status on grounds of personal safety," he said.

Proposals for pupils to spend more time in the workplace were first put forward under the previous government.

Mr Blunkett's scheme is modelled partly on an experiment in Pemberton Community High School, in Wigan, Greater Manchester, which cut the rate of truancy among 15-year-olds by allowing them to spend a day a week at a local factory, where they trained for a National Vocational Qualification.

Monet's 'Waterlily Pond and Path by Water' sold for £19,801,500 at Sotheby's in London last night. The price was the highest paid for a Monet at auction, the previous record standing at £13m. The work was one of a series painted in 1900. The winning bid was made by phone Brian Harris

Trimble appeals over march ban

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

DAVID TRIMBLE last night appealed to Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to review the ban on the Orangemen's march in Drumcree after meeting the Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan.

The loyalists were threatening to ignore the ban by the Parades Commission which recommended that Sunday's march through a nationalist community should not go ahead.

Mr Flanagan made it clear during a two-hour meeting with Mr Trimble that the RUC would be bound to enforce the ban, but the Ulster Unionist Party leader said Ms Mowlam had the power to review the Parades Commission decision.

Mr Trimble said: "I don't think we should look at it as a

democratic Labour Party leader, John Hume, his deputy. Some Orangemen called on the body to conduct no business until the Drumcree issue was resolved.

Mr Trimble said all responsible people were concerned about the decision to ban the march. "It is my view that the decision was a mistake and that this mistake is a very serious threat to peace and stability in Northern Ireland," he said.

"We will be seeking a review in order to see if there was a different outcome than the present threat of confrontation."

Denis Watson, Co Armagh district master of the Order, said: "It is the intention of the Portadown district to go to their place of worship on Sunday and to return along the traditional route, should that be

carefully. She said the Government agreed with the annual review of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act that the powers were still necessary.

Government ministers are worried that the stand-off will provoke a repeat of the violence that occurred when the parade was banned two years ago.

The violence forced the RUC, then in charge of parades decisions, to make a U-turn and allow the Orangemen through. One man died during rioting.

Ms Mowlam called for "calm and good sense" and stressed "violence on the streets can serve the interests of no one."

Her security minister, Adam Ingram, urged people not to repeat the mistakes of the past.

New punishment beating in NI

By LINUS GREGORIADIS

POLICE ARE investigating a punishment beating on a republican estate in Northern Ireland during which a woman and her three daughters were attacked by six men wielding baseball bats and a hammer.

The masked men, believed to be nationalists, kicked open the front door of a house on the Ballycoleman estate in Strabane, Co Tyrone. They ordered a man to stay in the living room while the beatings were administered in the kitchen, according to police.

A police spokesman said: "They told the women they had three days to leave the country or else be shot."

The unnamed 46-year-old mother was taken to hospital

has clearly not led to a cessation of these attacks.

There have been 69 such assaults this year - 40 carried out by loyalists and 29 carried out by republicans, according to figures from the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

An RUC spokesman said: "In the same period there have been 46 paramilitary-style shootings - 17 by loyalists and 29 by republicans."

The orchestrators of these attacks say they are attempting to stamp out crime on behalf of aggrieved members of the community who prefer to go to them rather than the police in their quest for justice. Beatings and shootings are carried out for a variety of offences, from

Leading article
Review, page 3

Rogue dealers cost drivers £100

By MICHAEL HARRISON

THE CONSUMER watchdog yesterday called for new powers to clamp down on rogue car dealers after warning that stolen and faulty vehicles were adding £100 a year to every car user's insurance premium.

John Bridgeman, director general of fair trading, said new laws were urgently needed to stop practices such as "clocking" and force drivers to provide better proof that they are the rightful owners of cars.

Mr Bridgeman said that of the 500,000 cars stolen in Britain each year, half were never recovered but simply re-circulated through the second-hand trade. "That amounts to 5,000 cars a week. That is a frightening number and it adds £100 a year to every car user's insurance," he said.

Figures released yesterday in the Office of Fair Trading's annual report show that complaints about second-hand cars reached 90,000 last year - 10 per cent of the total and by far the biggest single category in the OFT's caseload.

Three-quarters of the complaints about second cars related to defective

IN BRIEF

Halifax promises swift action to close swindlers' loophole

THE HALIFAX has pledged to review security procedures following an investigation which found that hundreds of pounds could be emptied from accounts at the bank without the account-holders' knowledge.

The investigation by BBC Radio 5 Live found that anyone with access to another customer's account number can set up a standing order in that customer's name, and credit the money to their own account.

Glastonbury death a mystery

RESULTS of an examination of the body of a 25-year-old man found in a tent at the Glastonbury Festival site were inconclusive, detectives said yesterday. Toxicology tests are to be done to determine the cause of death after the body was discovered at Worthy Farm, Pilton, Somerset, by workers clearing up after the event. A police spokesman said the man's parents had been contacted and were aware of the situation.

Death-drop girl had drink problem

A GIRL who died in a fall from the roof of her public school while celebrating her fourteenth birthday was almost three times over the drink-drive limit and had an alcohol problem, an inquest heard today.

Jennifer Gelardi had bought a litre bottle of vodka the day before she died of severe head injuries at Millfield School, the hearing at nearby Taunton, Somerset, was told. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Call for an end to animal snares

AN ALARMING increase in deaths and horrific injuries inflicted by snares on badgers, domestic pets and other animals has led to 50,000 people signing a petition to be presented to Conservative MP Roger Gale (North Thanet), chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Animal Welfare, who described snares as "vile and inhumane".



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One in six

Billie-Jo jury
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Broadcasting: Trial by television is a modern version of the stocks, says standards commission

Watchdog puts TV confessions in the dock

A GOVERNMENT watchdog put confessional television shows on trial yesterday, describing Jerry Springer et al as the modern equivalent of placing offenders in the stocks.

Summarising the genre as "victim entertainment", the Broadcasting Standards Commission's first annual report accuses daytime talk shows - which now include the home-grown *Kilroy*, *Vinessa* and *Esther*, as well as their US cousins *The Jerry Springer Show*, *Ricki Lake*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *Montel Williams* - of making "the abnormal normal".

Launching the report yesterday, Lady Howe of Aberavon, the commission chairman, warned: "The exploitation of the misfortunes of others is not an endearing human trait. There is a limit to trial by television. A society which has long since abandoned the stocks should think twice about the modern version, designed to titillate and entertain rather than inform."

Lady Howe emphasised that the commission supported programme makers in their desire to "cover and discuss difficult social and emotional problems". Yet, the commission's review hinted that "some

BY JANINE GIBSON
Media Correspondent

suspect that much of the confession and reaction is scripted and rehearsed, and occasionally faked".

The confessional show is now as much a staple of daytime TV here as it is across the Atlantic. Viewers with cable or satellite can watch a whole day of programmes entitled "My husband's a woman and she's sleeping with my best friend" or "Help! I married a love rat".

But while the public seems ever more keen to air its indiscretions in public, the BSC believes guests may need protecting for their own good.

The commission, a statutory body set up to represent the viewer on issues of taste and decency, fairness and privacy, has adjudicated on a significant number of complaints about talk shows in recent months; both from participants who felt they were unfairly treated and viewers unhappy with the subjects discussed.

The Independent Television Commission, a fellow watchdog, called for greater responsibility from confessional show producers earlier this year when publishing its own annual review of ITV and Channel 4.

Lady Howe expressed concern

for the guests in the shows who were exploited and felt distressed after their appearance. "There are times when it all goes too far and as this genre is growing, it involves people who may know nothing about broadcasting," she said.

She added: "We need to be concerned about participants because there's plenty of evidence that they don't always realise what they're getting into."

The BSC yesterday "encouraged producers and broadcasters to exercise greater care in their choice of subject and treatment."

It noted the pressure of the battle for daytime viewers, which raised the stakes for rival production teams to come up with more shocking subjects and questioned "whether this rapidly increasing section of the broadcast menu is to be welcomed".

The mass of talk shows was most dramatically increased this year when *Vinessa* stepped up production from three times a week to daily and the ITV network moved *The Jerry Springer Show* from a late-night slot to a regular lunchtime position. Most mornings, around three million people will watch the *Vinessa* and *Kilroy* shows, with a similar number tuning into American shows.



Kilroy: BBC1, about 1 million viewers Typical subject: "Kerb crawling. Discuss".

Former MP Robert Kilroy-Silk is no stranger to the Broadcasting Standards Commission, which has upheld complaints against him both from guests and viewers appalled by the portrayal of guests, including, most notoriously, a claimed paedophile. If that wasn't controversial enough, it was later revealed that the guest was, in fact, a hoaxter. He had appeared undetected several times, owing to desperation for sensational material. A man exposed himself earlier this year.



Vanessa: ITV, about 1.8 million viewers Typical subject: "I'm terrified of my own child".

Vanessa Feltz, recently promoted to ITV's key morning slot, caused outrage last year when she was deemed to have "humiliated" a woman who had given up her son for adoption and was reunited with him live on screen. The BSC described the programme as "hostile" to the mother and that the humiliation of the mother was unacceptable". Television critic Brian Viner likened the show to "bullying".



The Jerry Springer Show: ITV, about 3 million viewers. Typical subject: "I used to be a man".

For many, Springer is the apotheosis of victim TV. Like Kilroy, a former politician, Springer hosts his show from the safety of the audience while the stage is surrounded by a phalanx of burly bouncers. Time was when the Springer golden rule was that every show should feature at least one fight or chair-throwing incident. Following intense pressure, revelations that the bust-ups were staged and the banning of an episode exploring bestiality, Springer has toned down his act.

Dead sperm used to breed mice

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

DEAD SPERM that was freeze-dried and stored in a cupboard at room temperature for three months has been used successfully to fertilise the eggs of laboratory animals.

The technique promises to make the storage of human sperm far cheaper and easier than the present method, which involves freezing semen in liquid nitrogen at temperatures below -180C. Conservationists will also be interested in the findings because it may be possible to freeze-dry the sperm of endangered animals for selective breeding programmes.

Dr Ryuzo Yanagimachi, a reproductive biologist at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, in Honolulu, said that after treatment the sperm he took from laboratory mice were all motionless and technically dead, although their genetic information was perfectly preserved.

"We demonstrated that the mouse spermatozoa (sperm cells) can be freeze-dried without losing their genetic and reproductive potential," Dr Yanagimachi reports in the July issue of *Nature Biotechnology*.

Although there have been several previous attempts to freeze-dry semen, the latest study takes the story much further because Dr Yanagimachi had managed to produce healthy, live offspring.

Although the dead cells were unable to move, the scientists successfully fertilised eggs by injecting the head of the sperm with its full complement of DNA directly into the unfertilised eggs, a technique that is already being used in human in vitro fertilisation.

"It is interesting that the majority of the oocytes (eggs) that survive the injection of freeze-dried sperm heads were activated and fertilised normally," Dr Yanagimachi reports. "If we can store spermatozoa in freeze-dried state at ambient temperatures or in ordinary refrigerators, the reduction in the maintenance and shipping costs would be immense," he says.

The procedure involved reducing the temperature of the semen in a vacuum chamber to cause its water content to evaporate rapidly. It is the same technique that is used to create freeze-dried coffee and peanuts.

Professor John Aitken, of the Medical Research Council's Reproductive Biology Unit, in Edinburgh, said the success of the experiment demonstrates how tough sperm can be. "I can imagine it being used in certain circumstances in humans, such as when a young man with leukaemia has to undergo chemotherapy which would otherwise kill off his reproductive potential," he said. "It would be technically easier to freeze-dry his cells than store them in liquid nitrogen."

Alarm over soaps that set out to shock

THE BROADCASTING Standards Commission warned broadcasters yesterday that soap operas are "creeping into sensationalism" in the battle for higher ratings.

Citing a "significant number" of complaints about all the major soaps, the BSC's first annual report said broadcasters "need to balance the potentially powerful impact of a strong storyline with the expectations of the audience".

Over the past 12 months, the Commission has dealt with a large number of complaints about two separate incidents in *EastEnders*: an apparently derogatory depiction of the Irish, and the diagnosis of spina bifida and subsequent abortion of an unborn child. Yesterday it refused to single out any one soap but said complaints focused on bad language, violence and sex.

Commission director Stephen Whittle said that there had been

complaints about "pretty well all the soaps at one time or another in the year. We haven't necessarily upheld those complaints but we have paid attention to the audience concern," he added.

Commission chairman Lady Elspeth Howe said: "It is important that soaps continue to observe the conventions of the [9pm] watershed." She wrote to the chairman of broadcasters last month asking them to note that soaps broadcast between 8pm and 9pm had storylines which had "become much more intensive".

The tendency of soaps to compete with each other to provoke a greater public reaction was criticised by the Commission. Lady Howe said: "Once one soap begins to push boundaries, then the others follow."

However, she conceded, "parents often welcome the introduction of difficult subjects in soaps as a means

of initiating talks and educating their children. For the most part, broadcasters approach difficult issues responsibly."

Of particular concern to the Commission are soaps aimed at children, including *Byker Grove*, *Grange Hill* and *Hollyoaks*, which all had complaints about storylines dealing with "difficult" issues over the past year. While it accepted that most handled the issues sensitively, there have been a number of instances where the Commission feel the programmes went too far, particularly where audiences younger than the target age group might be watching.

The Commission also announced yesterday that it is to research the question of whether participants in "docu-soaps" and other documentaries appreciate the consequences of their appearance and have given "informed consent".

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broadcasters approach difficult

issues responsibly."

One in six adults has neurotic disorder

ONE IN six adults suffers from a neurotic disorder, according to the first ever national survey into mental health, with those in a town 50 per cent more likely to suffer than those in the country.

While the unemployed, the divorced and women are also more likely to suffer, the authors stress that mental illness is something that can affect any of us, presenting itself as mixed anxiety and depression, generalised anxiety, depressive episodes, phobias, obsessive compulsive disorder or panic disorder.

The survey of 10,000 people

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

was commissioned by the Department of Health and carried out by the Office for National Statistics to give a national picture of the prevalence, severity and duration of mental illness.

The authors of the report, published in the *Psychiatric Bulletin*, called for GPs and nurses

to be given more training in spotting and helping those with psychiatric disorders.

The most common disorder they found was mixed anxiety and depression. The study also found that one in twenty adults

had experienced symptoms of alcohol dependence and one in 40 was dependent on drugs.

All types of neurotic disorders were more common in women than men, and substantially higher in those who were separated, divorced or widowed. Cohabiting women also showed higher levels of neuroticism than average.

Unemployed people were about twice as likely to suffer neurotic disorders compared with people in work while those living in towns were 50 per cent more likely to suffer neurotic disorders than rural dwellers. Drug dependence

was over five times more frequent among the unemployed.

"Neuroses are a common mental disorder which affect most people at some time or other during the course of their lives," said Dr Rachel Jenkins, director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry.

The study indicates that some groups, such as the unemployed, have a higher risk. But it also shows that anyone can suffer. Nobody is exempt."

One in four of those suffering mental illness had not consulted a professional about their mental health, usually

because they thought no one

could help. Just under 1 per

cent reported suicidal thoughts

in the preceding week - two-

thirds of them women.

Levels of social disability - the inability to carry out ordinary tasks such as shopping or using public transport - was "astonishingly" high in those with neuroses or suffering suicidal thoughts. Yet only one-fifth of those with suicidal thoughts were receiving medication and just one-sixth had had counselling or psychotherapy.

The authors say that with

such high levels of mental illness

emphasis must be put on pri-

mary care to help such people.

"The high prevalence of these

disorders and their conse-

quences for personal rela-

tionships, social activities and

economic functioning means

that these disorders need to be

taken into account when plan-

ning the delivery of the health

service, particularly in prima-

ry care," Dr Jenkins said.

"This obviously has implica-

tions for basic training and

continuing education of pri-

mary care nurses and doctors

in assessment, diagnostic and

management techniques."

Leading article.

Review, page 3

Billie-Jo jury warned to keep emotions in check

JURORS in the Billie-Jo Jenkins murder trial were told yesterday not to allow the "strong emotions" aroused by the case to sway their decision.

Mr Justice Gage, at Lewes Crown Court, East Sussex, told the eight men and four women to use a "clear head and common sense" to decide whether Sian Jenkins, Billie-Jo's foster father, killed the 13-year-old. It was a "particularly gruesome killing ... but ... you must not let emotions or sympathy for any person sway your decision or affect your judgement."

Summing up on the 18th day of the trial, he said: "There can be no doubt that on the afternoon of 15 February 1997, Billie-Jo was killed in the most brutal way. The question for you to decide is was it this defen-

BY LOUISE JURY

endant who murdered her or was it somebody else."

The prosecution case was that Sian Jenkins, 40, a deputy headmaster, took an 18in tent peg and struck Billie-Jo about the head "for a reason or reasons which are not clear". He rushed out of the house, taking his two elder natural daughters with him, to distance himself from the crime, give himself time to think and "manufacture" a defence. The Crown says Billie-Jo's blood was found on his clothing in such quantities and such distribution that he must have been the killer.

The judge, summing up the defence, described how Mr Jenkins allegedly saw Billie-Jo before leaving to collect his

daughter Lottie from a clarinet lesson. When they returned, he decided to go out and buy white spirit with Lottie and another daughter, Annie. "When he left the house on that occasion, Billie-Jo was still alive. On his return, he was faced with the ghastly sight of Billie-Jo lying on the patio. Thereafter he was in a state of shock and disorientation. During that time, she must have exhaled blood on to his clothing. He had no motive for killing her," say the defence.

The prosecution claims Mr Jenkins did nothing to help his foster daughter after finding her bludgeoned body at the family home in Hastings, East Sussex.

The jury was told Mr Jenkins

was a man of good character

with no previous convictions.

The trial continues.

daughter Lottie from a clarinet lesson. When they returned, he decided to go out and buy white spirit with Lottie and another daughter, Annie. "When he left the house on that occasion, Billie-Jo was still alive.

Dobbo the bold lays ghost of Nye Bevan to rest, for now

THE GHOST of Nye Bevan haunted health questions in the Commons yesterday as the Labour Party pulled together in an orgy of self-congratulation on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the National Health Service.

It was a good day for Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, who has become one of the major successes of the Blair government. He enjoyed himself, throwing old fashioned - dare I say real Socialist - red meat at his backbenchers who enjoyed the tasty meal.

After weeks of having to cheer weekly at statements from Gordon Brown and Margaret Beckett privatising anything and everything,

ditching coalminers and trade unionists, it was a welcome relief for Labour MPs to grind their axes on the vicious Tories and all their evil doings against the health service.

David Winnick (Lab, Walsall North) provided the warm up act by calling on the Tories to apologise for their original opposition to the NHS in 1948. It escaped his, and his colleagues' attention, momentarily, that 55 of the 50 years had been under Tory management.

Mr Winnick got junior minister Paul Boateng in the right frame of mind when he took on Desmond Swayne (Con, New Forest West) who wanted to know the impact on the elderly of ending tax relief on pri-

vate medical insurance. "Will the minister rise above the dogma?" asked Mr Swayne.

Far from rising, Mr Boateng

plunged into a deep pool of dogma,

and enjoyed a thorough wallow and soak as he ranted that "after 50 years the Tories still have not learned about the principles of the NHS". The ending of the tax break saved £140 million which could be put into the health service and combined with VAT reductions on fuel, would do far more for old people, he said.

Getting carried away, Mr Boateng nearly set up an own goal by prompting David Hinchliffe (Lab, Wakefield) to demand that, as a tribute to Nye Bevan, Labour should abolish

private medicine. Mr Boateng re-

membered, belatedly, his New Labour credentials and responded

that "each and every person should make their own decision about using private medicine".

By the time we got to Dennis Skinner (Lab, Boleover) the show was well under way. Mr Skinner had the only question of the afternoon about waiting lists on which the Tories, hitherto, had scored heavily.

Mr Dobson was raring to go and gave us the "wonderful news" as we are speaking they are coming down". To Labour cheers he belied, "they stopped rising in May; they are coming down in June; the super tanker has turned".

Mr Skinner was fulsome in his

praise and pretended to consult the inside of his jacket where, if he

was any other Labour MP a bleep- er would have provided his supplementary. As ever, Mr Skinner made clear that this was no planted question and underlined this by demanding a further £12 billion "so that we can rebuild the health service and send the Tories packing".

Ann Widdecombe, the Tory Shadow Spokesman, had waited until Mr Skinner's question before intervening. But, while she showed her usual forceful manner, tough questioning and effective style, she could not quite capture the mood of the Labour benches.

Her main point was that since all Mr Dobson could offer was one month's fall, after 11 months of in-

creases, the waiting list was still not as low as when the Tories left office.

But Dobbo was on a roll and was unstoppable. "I don't know whether the Rt Hon. Lady understands the concept of movement: if they were rising and they are now falling, that is a first step. I am not pretending they are second and third steps".

He made a naughty, and unfair joke, saying that these steps were comparable with the steps taken by prisoners who escaped when Miss Widdecombe was Prisons Minister.

Unfair, maybe, but Miss Widdecombe can take it as well as dish it out. A good day's work, Frank, but if it is only a flash in the pan she will haunt you far worse than Nye Bevan.

Stop the bullying, says Cook

ROBIN COOK'S fracas with a committee of MPs over Sierra Leone intensified last night when the Foreign Secretary demanded they stop harassing his officials.

Mr Cook fired off a letter to the Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday morning as it sat in private session to decide what questions it could ask the Foreign Office Permanent Secretary, Sir John Kerr.

Mr Kerr had been put on standby to appear before the committee for the fourth time since the affair broke two months ago. But Mr Cook told the committee's chairman, Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea West) that if its members wanted to question anyone they should call for him.

Despite his warning, the committee proceeded to recall Sir John yesterday for a session in which one member said Mr Cook's most senior official seemed to be "ageing as we looked at him".

The row blew up after Mr Cook refused to hand over telegrams sent by the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone last year after he was exiled to Guinea because of a coup. The committee hopes it will reveal which officials knew a British firm of mercenaries had been engaged to restore the Sierra Leone president to power in breach of a United Nations arms embargo.

However, Mr Cook says he will let the committee see the telegrams when Sir Thomas Legg completes an inquiry into the affair, possibly by the end of this month. The Foreign Sec-

SIERRA LEONE
By FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

retary is now expected to be asked to appear before the committee in two weeks' time.

Mr Cook's letter accused the committee of trying to conduct its own inquiry while Sir Thomas's inquiry was still underway. "That is unfair to the officials and unreasonable on the part of the select committee," it said.

There was no ministerial conspiracy to breach the arms embargo. There was no connivance within Whitehall ... if the select committee wishes to persist in putting questions on these matters, they must put them directly to myself."

David Heath (Somerset and Frome), the Liberal Democrat member on the committee, said Mr Cook's letter appeared to pre-empt the inquiry itself.

"There seems to be a bold statement that there is nothing for the investigation to look into. Considering that he's telling us we mustn't prejudice the inquiry to put it in those terms is a bit odd," he said.

David Wilshire (Con, Spelthorne) said: "Sir John Kerr was ageing as we looked at him. I suppose we are getting a bit quarrelsome, but then we are paid to be quarrelsome."

The committee had been divided over whether it could ask Sir John about British military consultants who were attached to the exiled consulate. It took an hour and a half of private debate to decide they could. Sir John responded that they could. The Government has promised to reduce waiting lists to the 1.16 million Labour

HOSPITAL WAITING lists are coming down for the first time, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced yesterday.

They stopped rising in May, and started falling in June, Mr Dobson told the Commons during health questions yesterday. "The supertanker has turned. I'm confident that this will be confirmed when the validated figures are published in August. The Government intends to make sure they keep coming down," he said.

The Government has promised to reduce waiting lists to the level inherited from the Tories.

HEALTH
By SAM COATES

inherited from the Tories by next April, and by a further 100,000 by the end of the Parliament in line with its early pledge.

The Labour left-winger Dennis Skinner described the news as "wonderful". But rebuilding the Health Service would cost at least £1.2bn before the next election, he said.

The Tory health spokeswoman, Ann Widdecombe, said this was only the first step towards getting waiting lists back to the level inherited from the Tories.

"Waiting lists haven't been going down. They have gone up to record levels under this government," she said.

She accused Mr Dobson of "rationing" treatment in the pursuit of shorter waiting lists, claiming that four minor operations were no longer available on the NHS anywhere in the country.

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat health spokesman, said yesterday's announcement on waiting lists was "convenient" and asked the Government for proof of the downturn. He also said that the Government had admitted that the rationing of services in the NHS does exist.

The Tory health spokesman, Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House, published the plans yesterday after a year's deliberation on how Parliament could be reformed to help members with young children.

If Mrs Taylor's report is accepted, sittings will begin at 11.30am on Thursdays - three hours earlier than usual - so members can leave for their constituencies at 7pm. Although different areas have

"If rationing exists and if rationing is to continue, we must have a public debate and democratic decisions about what is rationed and when."

Rev Martin Smyth (UUP, Belfast South) called on the Government to look at the waiting times of patients from the moment the GP gets in touch with the consultant.

Alan Milburn, the health minister, replied that he knew that patients are sick waiting for appointments with GPs, consultants and to get in and out of hospital. "This government is pledged to get waiting lists down, and as we get waiting lists down, we will get waiting times down as well," he said.

■ Mr Dobson will today announce that a new NHS supremo is to be appointed with the power to send teams into failing hospitals as part of a new "quality" agenda.

He will tell a conference in London marking the 50th anniversary of the NHS that the Government is to create a new post of director of health improvement, to head a commission with powers to investigate failures such as those at the Bristol hospital where two doctors last week were struck off for "serious professional misconduct" after the deaths of 29 children.

Blocking tactics infuriate activists

BACKBENCH BILLS

By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

CAMPAINERS are furious over plans by the former Tory minister Eric Forth to continue blocking a series of Bills on Friday in the Commons on issues ranging from banning fox hunting to giving house-buyers more information about the energy efficiency of houses.

Yesterday he confirmed he would continue to object to a list of private members' Bills when they come up for their final stages because he believes they have not had enough scrutiny by MPs. Because of the lack of parliamentary time, Mr Forth or any other MP can block Bills which are low on the private members' list by standing up in the Commons and shouting "objection".

He has agreed to let through, after earlier objections, a Bill to regulate London mini-cabs. He faced protests from women's groups over the threat of rape to women from unlicensed mini-cab drivers.

But Mr Forth is prepared to continue blocking other measures, including the Energy Efficiency Bill of John Burnett, Liberal Democrat MP for Torridge and West Devon. It would require house-sellers to give details of the energy efficiency of their homes in estate agent details.

There are eight backbench Bills trying to get through the third reading or report stage on Friday, including the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, which are likely to be talked out. The Government refused to give any time to the Bills because it feared it would open itself to pressure to provide more time for the fox-hunting ban to go through.

Hospital waiting lists 'falling'

HOSPITAL WAITING lists are coming down for the first time, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced yesterday.

They stopped rising in May, and started falling in June, Mr Dobson told the Commons during health questions yesterday.

The supertanker has turned. I'm confident that this will be confirmed when the validated figures are published in August. The Government intends to make sure they keep coming down," he said.

The Government has promised to reduce waiting lists to the level inherited from the Tories.

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

Tanked up

THE ROYAL Scots Dragoon Guards have become the first regiment to be fully equipped with the Challenger 2 main battle tank, Defence Minister John Spellar told Denis MacShane (Lab, Rotherham).

Blair's record

OF 146 policy reviews currently undertaken, 63 had already been completed, 40 of which were within the original timescale, the Prime Minister told Nigel Waterston (Con, Eastbourne).

Benefit squeeze

SOME 8,000 claimants will be affected by the restriction of Council Tax Benefit in properties in B and F bands and above in 1998/99, Social Security Secretary Keith Bradley told Iain Coleman (Lab, Hammersmith).

Standards pay

THE NINE members of the Committee on Standards in Public Life were paid £25,126 in fees and £12,939 in expenses since 1 April 1997, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, David Clark, told Andrew Dismore (Lab, Hendon).

Envoy's disgrace

SEVENTEEN foreign diplomats committed serious offences in Britain last year, Foreign Office Minister Tony Lloyd told Richard Burden (Lab, Birmingham Northfield). Most involved drinking and driving or shoplifting.

Extra 'family time' for overworked MPs

COMMONS REFORM By FRAN ABRAMS

different school holidays, business managers in the House will try to ensure MPs have constituency weeks when their children are off school.

Standing committees could be allowed to sit during recesses in order to get Bills through. A designated period - possibly in September - might be set aside for this.

The report will go to the Commons Select Committee on Modernisation, which is chaired by Mrs Taylor. It will consider her ideas and others

for change of the parliamentary timetable, and the Government will then respond.

Mrs Taylor said: "These proposals represent a sensible package of changes which contribute towards the Government's objectives of making the House more effective. It reduces the pressure points during the session and adjusts the arrangements to make them more family-friendly."

The last time the hours of the House were substantially changed was in 1995 following the Jopling report, which largely eliminated sittings continuing after midnight.

THE HOUSE



End to secrecy on pesticides

A MOVE to boost ministers' powers to publish information on pesticides, aimed at combating health fears on food, cleared the Lords last night. The Pesticides Bill, launched by Labour's Ben Bradshaw (Exeter), now

returns to the Commons for peers' amendments to be approved. Ministers can currently only release information on those pesticides approved since 1993, or older ones that have been reviewed since then.

The Bill would give the Government power to release information on all pesticides without having to wait for these reviews.

New goals for public services

THE CITIZEN'S Charter will be replaced by a new "service first" action plan, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, David Clark, said yesterday. The new programme will set out nine key principles for public services: they should be open and provide full information; consult and involve present and potential users; encourage access and the promotion of choice; treat all fairly; put things right when they go wrong; use resources

effectively; innovate and improve; and work with other service providers.

Hague off work until next week

WILLIAM HAGUE will not be returning to work this week. He is recovering from an operation last week to drain his sinuses.

A spokesman for the Opposition leader said he had been advised to stay in Yorkshire. "Mr Hague was eager to return for Prime Minister's Questions this week, but has decided to follow his doctor's advice," the spokesman said.

Today in Parliament

Commons

- International development questions
- Questions to the Prime Minister
- Finance Bill, remaining stages
- Teaching and Higher Education Bill, Lords amendments
- Adjournment debate on housing costs and welfare benefits reform
- Lords

■ Road Traffic Reduction (National Targets) Bill, third reading

■ Government of Wales Bill

■ Debate on indebted poor countries

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Chechnya hostages: On anniversary of abduction of British aid workers, relatives plan campaign to publicise plight

Postcard blitz in drive for kidnap victims

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

ernment as much as possible." Mr McCarthy said that it was vital not to give up hope of freeing the hostages. "We were lost for a couple of years before people knew for sure that we were alive, so it is important to carry on."

"We found anniversaries very important. Sometimes, when you haven't seen your friends and family for a long time, it is difficult to conjure up their physical image properly. But at times of anniversaries, it was easier because you were thinking about them so much. You also knew for sure that, at that time, they were thinking about you."

Baroness Symons, the Foreign Office minister with responsibility for kidnap cases, praised the press coverage of the Chechnya hostages and said it could help secure their release.

But she warned: "Reports based on rumour and speculation can have the opposite effect, even sometimes putting the hostages in more danger."

The families of the hostages began their campaign in December, having remained silent initially for five months in accordance with Foreign Office desires; they had hoped that working behind the scenes



Charity workers Jon James and Camilla Carr were kidnapped in Chechnya a year ago, while Chechen fighters like those below fought for independence

would do the trick. When that policy failed, they began with a service at St James's, Piccadilly.

Since then, said Mrs Little, they have "done everything, from running coffee mornings to organising rock concerts. People are wearing purple ribbons."

Earlier this year a party was held at the Groucho Club to mark Ms Carr's 40th birthday. The campaign is increasingly focused on Ms Carr: believed to be the only British woman in modern times to have been kidnapped, other than those used as "human shields" during the Gulf war.

The only other high-profile Western parallel is Patti Hearst, the American heiress

who was kidnapped in the Seventies.

Hopes that the British couple will be freed were raised last week when two kidnapped Swedish missionaries were released in Dagestan, across the border from Chechnya.

This week also sees the anniversary of another British kidnap. Saturday will be the third anniversary of the abduction of Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, kidnapped in 1995 during a trekking holiday in Kashmir on India's north-west border.

They were taken, with three other foreign nationals, by Kashmiri guerrillas based in Pakistan. One of the men, a Norwegian, was found beheaded later that year. It is be-

lieved that he may have tried to escape. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Nothing has been heard since late 1995 of the others to confirm either that they are alive or dead."

James Bowman, of the Middlesbrough-based Hostages in Kashmir Campaign, said: "We will be holding a concert on Saturday to raise funds to send members of the men's families over to India to speak to people who may know something about the hostages' whereabouts."

The campaign to free Camilla Carr and Jon James can be contacted on 0128 645214. The Hostages in Kashmir Campaign is on 0164 301010.



Chechen video evidence shows seized aid workers are alive

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

THE FAMILIES and friends of two British hostages in Chechnya can take comfort in one heartening fact as they prepare to mark the first anniversary of the couple's kidnapping: they are alive.

A new videotape showing Jon James and Camilla Carr has been released by their abductors and is now in the hands of those trying to secure their release.

"There has been proof of life within the last month," said Chris Hunter, co-founder of the Centre for Peace-Making and Community Development, the aid organisation for whom the couple worked. He confirmed that the "proof" was a videotape, the second film of the two to emerge from Chechnya's 21-month war with Russia.

Mr James, from Lydney in Gloucestershire, and Ms Carr, who lived in Ross-on-Wye, are special-needs teachers who went to Chechnya to help children who were psychologically traumatised by the republic's 21-month war with Russia.

Two months after their arrival in the wrecked city of Grozny, having travelled across Europe in an old Lada, they were abducted. Thus, they became victims of a rash of kidnappings involving scores of journalists, expatriate workers, Chechens and Russians – including Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy to the republic.

The news offers a glimmer of hope in an otherwise bleak affair which began a year ago when Mr James, 37, and Ms Carr, 40, were seized by masked armed men who handcuffed their guards and spirited them off into captivity somewhere in the mountainous, bandit-ridden, republic.

Although the intentions

of the kidnappers in this case is a mystery, the motive is often cash: the going rate for a foreigner in Chechnya is about \$1m (£625,000).

The British government says it refuses to pay ransoms, but the same cannot be said of others. Seven-figure sums have been paid out for hostages in the last year.

Last week, relatives of a Swiss construction engineer, Peter Zollinger, reportedly paid \$300,000 to secure his freedom. "Other people paying out ransoms makes our position more difficult," Mr Hunter said yesterday.

The exact date the couple were abducted is disputed, although the Foreign Office and Mr Hunter believe it was on the night of 2-3 July – making tomorrow the first anniversary.

The conditions in which the two are living can only be speculated upon, but the experience of other hostages is not encouraging. Mr Zollinger spent seven months chained to a radiator, living on tea, bread and potatoes. "I had nothing to read, nothing to write with,

and I couldn't move," he told the Swiss daily paper *Blick*.

As Jon James and Camilla Carr enter their second year in captivity, few signs have publicly emerged of progress in efforts to free them. In March, the Chechen security forces sent out a team of commandos on a rescue mission, after receiving a tip-off that they were in Urt-Martan, 20 miles south of Grozny. But the kidnappers got wind of their approach. A fire-fight erupted en route in which two people were killed. The commandos never established whether the two Britons were actually in the alleged hide-out.

Other more conventional initiatives continue. Tony Blair has raised the question with Boris Yeltsin three times. Officials also quizzed the Chechen President, Aslan Maskhadov, in March, when he visited London. Posters have been stuck up around Grozny. Sir Andrew Wood, the British ambassador to Moscow, has dispatched a video appeal to the republic for use on Chechen television channels. The families can only hope that all this will eventually pay off.

Nasa to launch Martian ice probe

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

THE US space agency Nasa will launch a spacecraft next January to dig beneath the polar caps of Mars in a search for water, and perhaps life.

The Mars Polar Lander is one of two craft now being readied for takeoff, following the success of the Mars Pathfinder and its Sojourner rover. That landed on the planet just under a year ago, and won worldwide plaudits as it beamed back data that showed that Mars used to be warm and wet, covered with fast-flowing rivers of water like Earth – but only until three billion years ago.

Then, the data showed, the planet gradually turned into an inhospitable dry, freezing cold world whose climate has not changed for about two billion

years. However, Nasa scientists yesterday suggested that Mars could still harbour some sort of life, possibly buried under the ice caps which cover huge expanses of its poles.

Photographs from the orbiting Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft last month showed a dark patch at the bottom of a crater that could be ice.

The Mars Polar Lander will land at the Martian south pole in December 1998, and be equipped with an arm that can dig about a metre below the surface to see if there is any water there. It will also carry two microprobes that will drop off as it falls towards the planet;

they will crash into the surface to a depth of about two metres, and provide more data about the presence of water.

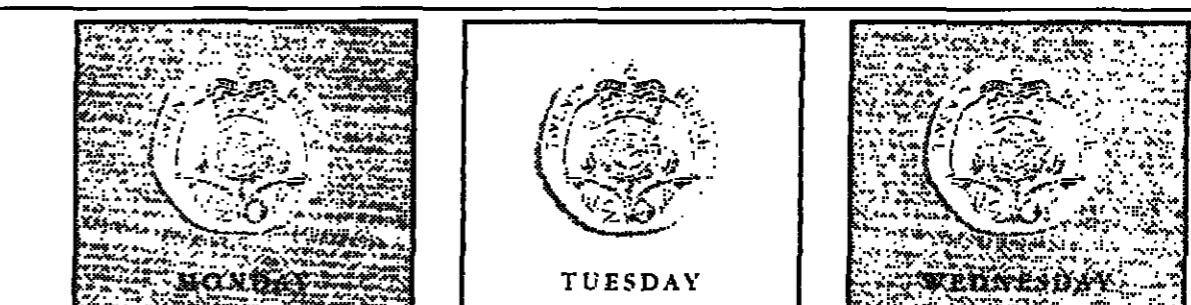
Matthew Golombek, the principal scientist for Pathfinder, said last year's pictures from the Pathfinder landing site suggested the area has been "dry and static" for the past two billion years. Only erosion from wind has changed the scene, stripping away two to three inches of surface material.

Pathfinder was a triumph for a new NASA approach to interplanetary missions, which have a credo of "faster, cheaper, better". The mission cost just \$265m (£156m), and almost every part of the new technologies tested – such as

airbags for the high-speed landing, and the remotely controlled Sojourner, worked well beyond expectations. The lander kept working three times longer than its expected one-month lifespan, while Sojourner survived 12 times longer than its expected seven days.

Japan aims to launch a probe this weekend to land on Mars in October 1999. If it succeeds, it will be the first interplanetary spacecraft by a nation other than the United States and Russia.

The unmanned half-ton probe will examine the Martian atmosphere, watch the planet's sand storms, and use ground-penetrating radar to search for water under the surface.



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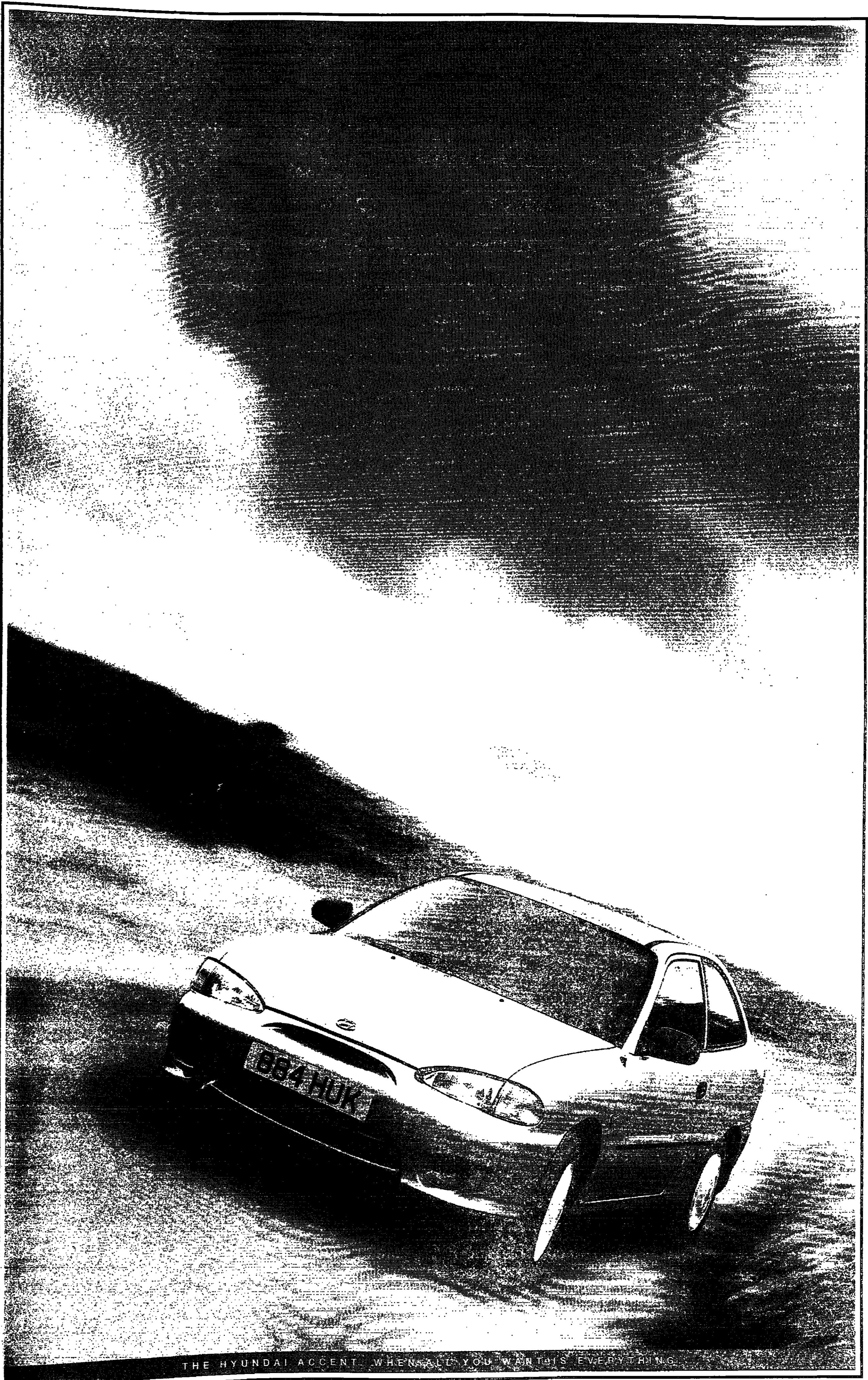
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Upfront Clinton excites Chinese

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

FU JINZHU had put away her radio and was considering President Bill Clinton's live performance on Shanghai's hottest phone-in programme. "It's the nature of American leaders to be frank. Of course, we would like China's leaders to go on shows like that," she said, serving customers cold drinks and cigarettes at her tiny grocery store down a *hutong* (lane) off Nanjing Road, Shanghai's best-known shopping street.

But there were differences between the two countries, said Ms Fu: "Chinese people are like a Thermos flask, hot on the inside and cold on the outside. American people are just hot."

At noon yesterday Ms Fu and many other Shanghai listeners switched to Radio 990's *Citizens and Society* phone-in show, and found an unexpectedly interesting guest.

The US President, in his third foray into Chinese broadcasting, was fielding questions on anything from library development to traffic pollution, and the likely winner of the World Cup. "I think the Brazilians are always hard to beat," Mr Clinton said.

Ms Fu, 54, said: "It was the first time we had the President on the show, and we did not know in advance, or we could have asked him about our daily life."

Apart from the suspiciously bland line in questions, and the fact that the radio station had not bothered to inform listeners about its guest, it was just one of those programmes when a beleaguered US president takes his chances with all-comers.

He need not have worried. Almost every Chinese one asks knows the salient details of the Monica Lewinsky scandal, but it would not occur to them to inquire further: "Chinese people don't ask those questions," Ms Fu said. And Mr Clinton's views on the air-pollution benefits of the fuel-injection engine were unlikely to cause any problems for anyone.

Hearing that China only had 115,000 lawyers, he suggested a deal: "We should just trade each other - we'll give you lawyers, you could give us engineers." Even though it doesn't burn a lot of calories, it makes my mind calm."

Not everyone got to hear yesterday's broadcast, as the city's neighbourhood-watch teams - the busybodies who like to know everyone's business - had been told to turn out in force.

A foreigner walking down a *hutong* in the area near Mr Clinton's hotel was approached by patrols. "We're on duty today. It's our duty to see if anything is happening on the street dur-



Bill Clinton during his stint yesterday on *Citizens and Society* with Zuo Anlong, the host of the popular radio programme, which has 10 million listeners

Tokyo slighted as US cosies up to old enemy

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Tokyo

DURING Bill Clinton's last big Asian jaunt, to Japan in the spring of 1996, no visiting leader could have been more attentive or complimentary. The friendship between Tokyo and Washington was, according to their joint communiqué, "one of the most successful bilateral relationships in the world".

While yesterday's questions were tame, Mr Clinton's remark that "people everywhere want to engage their leaders in dialogue" found approval down the *hutongs*. "He seems to be very close to ordinary people. I think that's the way American people are. They don't use big words. They are plain talkers," Mr Li said.

Revelations about the private lives of Chinese leaders are rare, and Ms Fu marvelled:

"He was very open in telling people about his personal hobbies." The question came from a Mr Li, who told Mr Clinton he seemed "very healthy and you seem to have a very nice figure" and wanted to know what sports he played. The President said he had used a Stairmaster since a leg injury 18 months ago, and golf was his favourite game. "Even though it doesn't burn a lot of calories, it makes my mind calm."

Not everyone got to hear yesterday's broadcast, as the city's neighbourhood-watch teams - the busybodies who like to know everyone's business - had been told to turn out in force.

A foreigner walking down a *hutong* in the area near Mr Clinton's hotel was approached by patrols. "We're on duty today. It's our duty to see if anything is happening on the street dur-

ing Clinton's visit," said a woman who did not want to give her name. "We have to see if there are any strangers on the street."

Was this the heavy hand of party control? Had they found any strangers so far during the visit? "No, we did not see any except for you. We welcome you," she smiled. The woman said she had been elected to her position, and earned 1,000 yuan (£77) a month, not a bad wage.

She liked *Citizens and Society*. "I like it because it answers questions related to our lives."

"Although I'm not laid off, I'm concerned about laid-off workers. Some other issues like sanitation, sometimes they solve these problems which cannot be solved normally," she said. In practice, that usually means the radio station airing complaints about incompetent or corrupt local of-

ficials, and embarrassing them into sorting out some situation.

Mr Clinton, in search of the understanding of the changes under way in everyday Shanghai life, spent yesterday morning in a round-table discussion with a Catholic bishop, a novelist, a consumer advocate, a law professor, a physicist, a university president and a researcher, hearing about developments in areas including the legal system, the Internet and

religion. It was at this unlikely venue that he gave Peking what China's leaders had been looking for on the question of Taiwan.

Discussing his summit last Saturday with President Jiang Zemin, Mr Clinton said: "I had the chance to reiterate our Taiwan policy, which is that we don't support independence for Taiwan, or two Chinas' or 'one Taiwan, one China'. And we don't believe that Taiwan

should be a member in any organisation for which statehood is a requirement."

This did no more than restate existing policy, but it was what China wanted to hear. Hours later, with Mr Clinton still in the middle of his China trip, the Foreign Ministry pronounced the state visit a "full success".

It is a certainty that today's newspapers will give front-page coverage to Mr Clinton's

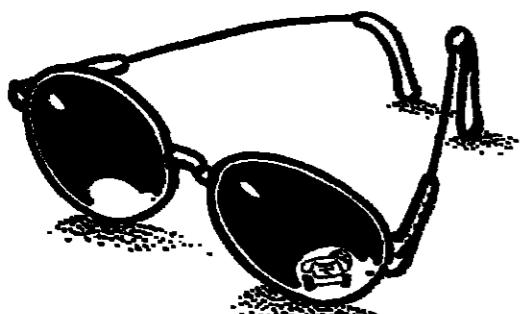
resentment in the Japanese government about the "megaphone diplomacy" with which the US has been signalling dissatisfaction with Japan's economic situation, and about China's efforts to "drive a wedge" between the two allies.

But Chinese bitterness at Japan's wartime behaviour has never disappeared and from Tokyo the sight of a beaming Mr Clinton and Mr Jiang has exacerbated a sense of vulnerability. As Japan's credibility as Asia's economic superpower is questioned, China is being praised for its leadership and responsibility. As winds of change blow across Asia, Mr Clinton's words in China seem to have contributed to the new course.

Taiwan comments, which were not broadcast on China's airwaves.

In contrast, the President's nationally televised speech and comments on Monday at Peking University, at which he argued for the importance of personal freedom, received minimal coverage in yesterday's Chinese newspapers - with not one mention of Mr Clinton's comments on human rights.

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Cossacks ride to rescue in crime-ridden St Petersburg

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

AS ST PETERSBURG prepares to bury the remains of the last Tsar, Nicholas II, another piece of imperial history is about to make a come-back on the city's streets: mounted Cossacks.

The city's new police chief is planning to introduce Cossack patrols, hoping that their ancient reputation for ferocity and brilliant horsemanship will drive villains out of the parks and streets of Russia's former capital.

The St Petersburg police department yesterday confirmed that its boss, General Viktor Vlasov - himself of Cossack extraction - is planning to deploy patrols on a trial basis in one district.

While the police would pay them, they will be told to supply their own horses.

The move marks another step in the Cossacks' steady march back into official favour in post-Soviet Russia, after being exiled from their home-lands by the Communists. Boris Yeltsin has proved an enthusiastic supporter, although human rights groups complain the Cossacks have autocratic and racist tendencies.

For centuries, the tsars used the Cossacks to suppress uprisings in national groups, such as the Chechens and Tatars. Thus, their unsavoury reputation.

A spokesman for the St Petersburg police department told the *Moscow Times*: "As far as I know there have been no



A Cossack 'warrior' in traditional headgear

inter-racial conflicts with the Cossacks who live in the city or region."

The decision has been welcomed by the Cossacks themselves, who appear convinced that they have the skills required to bring back even the nastiest of customers.

Their "ataman" (or leader) in St Petersburg, Artakay Kramarev, has boasted that "Cossacks have a keen sense of law".

Nor - England football fans,

take note - are they afraid of hooligans, he said.

The Cossacks are already at work in the city, which has been dubbed by some "the Venice of the North" because of its faded elegance and canals. The police said that Cossacks were guarding one of the biggest markets.

Any bandit or mafia man

who sought to take them on

would face a lashing from their favoured weapon, the "naginata" - or whip.

Discussion is now underway in St Petersburg over whether the Cossack patrols can be armed with guns, a move that requires a new law. This is not the first time that General Vlasov has whistled up help from his fellow Cossacks. Until recently he was in charge of the transport police in north-western Russia. Train passengers would be confronted by hefty Cossack guards from an organisation that is modestly called "Thunder".

Off to work they don't go as strike hits Euro Disney

By JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

HI HO, HI HO, it's off on strike we go. Workers at Euro Disney, including dozens of people who dress up as Disney characters such as Mickey Mouse and the seven dwarfs, are striking for better pay and conditions.

The theme park, east of Paris, insisted yesterday that the overwhelming majority of its 13,000 staff were still working. Tourists visiting the site would not notice any difference, Euro Disney officials said.

Union leaders reported that 150 people were refusing to work yesterday and that the strike, which started last Friday, could escalate. There have been several industrial disputes at the theme park - Europe's most popular tourist attraction - since it opened in 1992.

This is the first to include costumed performers and participants in the grand parade, who are asking for increased wages and recognition of their status as skilled artists. The strikers also include sound and electrical technicians and restaurant workers. The costumed performers earn between £8,400 and £10,200 a year.

The dispute was provoked by

CHRIS PATTEN

"Too many Asian governments neglected the basics. They borrowed too much, and often borrowed unwisely"

— THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

Tripp denies trapping Monica

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

Pentagon, and denied accusations voiced recently that she tried to trap her into confessing an affair in order to discredit the President. It was the first time that Ms Tripp, who secretly taped more than 20 hours of conversations with Ms Lewinsky, had appeared in public since she was first revealed as the woman behind the tapes in January.

Ms Tripp's evidence is crucial to the case being argued by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, who is trying to establish whether Ms Lewinsky and Mr Clinton committed perjury when they denied under oath that they had an affair.

He is also investigating whether Mr Clinton committed the more serious criminal offence of obstructing the course of justice by inducing or putting pressure on Ms Lewinsky to deny the relationship.

The short excerpts of the tapes that have been leaked to the media suggest there was a sexual relationship, and notes couched in semi-legal language that Ms Lewinsky gave to Ms Tripp suggest someone – perhaps on the instructions of the President, perhaps not – wanted to ensure any evidence Ms Tripp gave in court chimed with statements made by Ms Lewinsky and others.

In a telephone interview with the *Washington Post*, her first public statement since March, Ms Tripp said that she was anxious to go before the Grand Jury "and tell the truth". She said that she felt she had been unfairly vilified for taping her conversations with Ms Lewinsky, then a 23-year-old colleague of hers at the

Pentagon, and denied accusations voiced recently that she tried to trap her into confessing an affair in order to discredit the President. It was the first time that Ms Tripp, who secretly taped more than 20 hours of conversations with Ms Lewinsky, had appeared in public since she was first revealed as the woman behind the tapes in January.

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Linda Tripp, with her son Ryan and other relatives and friends, prepares to face the Grand Jury Reuters

ica Lewinsky's father, Bernard, has described her as a "pathetic specimen of humanity".

The most favourable explanation is she made the tapes to defend herself, after Mr Clinton's lawyer, Robert Bennett, scoured an observation she had made about Mr Clinton and another White House worker, Kathleen Willey, as unbelievable. Now, like many of the

leading figures in the Lewinsky case, including Monica herself, Ms Tripp has a team of lawyers and a PR adviser, and makes no move without them. She could even risk prosecution. Clandestine tape recording is illegal in Maryland, where she lives. But she insisted to the *Post*: "I won't say it's not been difficult, but I have the truth on my side... It is what has sustained

me. The truth as I know it will be corroborated."

Legal analysts said that the personal impression she makes before the Grand Jury will be crucial. If she comes over as sincere and likeable, her evidence would be more compelling and could swing the case against the President.

Mr Starr is expected to complete his investigation over the

summer and present his report to Congress. If he finds sufficient evidence to support allegations that Mr Clinton tried to obstruct the course of justice, that could lead to a criminal indictment or impeachment. The US legal establishment is divided about whether an incumbent president can be indicted, or must first be impeached by Congress.

THERE IS a new wedge dividing blacks from whites in America. It is Aids. The disease that 15 years ago was associated with white gays living in San Francisco and New York has now tightened its deadly embrace around those members of American society who are already disadvantaged: ethnic minorities.

Alarm bells are suddenly being sounded throughout the black community by new statistics showing that since 1994, 57 per cent of new infections with the HIV virus are among blacks.

For young people aged 13 to 24, the disparity is even worse: 63 per cent of new infections have been striking blacks. Among blacks and Latinos, Aids now reigns as the leading killer of people aged from 25 to 44.

The new numbers are even more startling when you consider one other statistic: African Americans account for only 13 per cent of the American population as a whole.

By the end of last year, the number of blacks and Hispanics who had contracted Aids in the US since the epidemic first began stood at 345,000, compared with 289,000 for whites.

Those calling the medical community to battle include the new US Surgeon General, David Satcher, who has been attending the UN World Aids Conference in Geneva this week. "I don't think there is any question that the epidemic in this country is becoming increasingly an epidemic of colour," he declared.

The shifting demography of the disease can in part be explained by recent successes in curbing infection rates among whites, both heterosexual and homosexual. The advances have been the result both of improved drug therapies and long-established education programmes about high-risk behaviour.

A primary concern, however, is that neither the drugs nor the education campaigns have been as widely available for blacks, especially poor blacks. Critics charge that the new

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

statistics serve as a vivid indictment of the US health care system, which effectively denies proper treatment for those unable to afford proper medical treatment.

At the same time, the black community itself is being charged with doing too little to bring the Aids crisis out into the open. The National Association of Colored People (NAACP) has been under fire because Aids is not even on the agenda of its upcoming annual meeting.

Mr Satcher has also led calls on black church leaders to overcome their traditional reluctance to address the epidemic. "I grew up in the black church," he told the *New York Times* this week. "I think the church has problems with the lifestyle of homosexuality. A real problem has been getting ministers that are even willing to talk about it in their pulpits."

One exception has been the Rev Eric Williams, a black minister in Kansas City who three years ago introduced a national Aids awareness campaign for black people to his parish. "It was like pulling teeth the first year to get people involved," said Mr Williams, who runs the Calvary Temple Baptist Church.

Mr Williams reports that his efforts are at last beginning to attract support. Helping him with his work is the Rev Donald Gilmore. He has another worry, which is that as Aids becomes increasingly identified with blacks, less attention will be paid to it. "I have a fear that it will be marginalised, because it will be perceived as just something of minorities," he told the *Kansas City Star*.

Mr Gilmore admits part of the problem lies with the attitude of black people to homosexuality. While whites have learned to talk openly about them and the correlation with Aids, blacks still have trouble overcoming the taboos. "We just don't like to talk about those things," he said.

Aids epidemic strikes black Americans

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The concierge is a very important part of French life, but they now prefer to be known as gardiennes, keen to avoid the perjorative connotations of being-the-nets prying

On sticky ground with our 'female goalkeeper'

EUROPEAN TIMES

PARIS

THE CONCIERGE came to the door of our flat, looking even more bedraggled than usual and a little wet. Had we, she wanted to know, been throwing water out of the window into the courtyard five floors below?

Er, no, we replied, at first indignant and then amused. Concierges are not supposed to be called *concierges* any more. The word is regarded as perjorative, carrying connotations of amateur espionage and moral judgements passed behind twitching lace curtains. They are now to be called *gardiennes*, which also means "female goalkeepers".

Our female goalkeeper is a gentle, hard-working, competent woman but a little strange. Her job is to deliver the mail, put out the rubbish, clean the hall and stairs and keep out undesirables. She is given to talking (and laughing) to herself loudly, cooking cabbage stews which perfume the entire building, and having noisy, drunken parties with her friends on Friday nights.

Madame is a Bosnian Serb and a Jehovah's Witness. This combination seems to have made her a sweet-natured paranoid. Her mood swings from friendly to chillingly distant, which means the mail arrives up to three days after even the French postal service intended. Conversations with our *gardiennes* are best kept to

domestic subjects. Any deviation from that rule is likely to produce a) a lecture on the iniquities of the Bosnian Moslems, who are "trying to conquer Europe", or b) an inquiry as to whether you wish to learn about "the love of Christ" in the French version of the *Watchtower*.

Despite these oddities, the

consensus in the building is that we are lucky to have Madame. The *gardiennes* is a dying breed. There were 60,000 in Paris in 1950; there are now less than 25,000. They have been flushed out of their tiny ground-floor apartments by the coming of electronic coded devices for opening doors.

It is regarded as a great cachet to have a *gardiennes* to yourself. If you walk down any Parisian street early in the morning you can tell which buildings have them and which do not. The *gardiennes* are there, in close formation, washing the front steps and pavements outside their buildings; the electronic devices are not.

All of which is by way of saying that we would not dream of pouring water on Madame from a height of five floors. A couple of moments after she left, shaking her head, we looked out of the

window to see her in the courtyard with two of our least friendly neighbours (my wife calls them Egg and Fish, after their physical appearance). All three were looking down at a great puddle of water in the courtyard and then looking up at our window and pointing. We could hear the words "les *anglais*" and possibly even "hooligans", a word recently imported into the French language. We grew indignant all over again, especially my wife, who is not English but Irish.

Then we remembered. Charlie, aged eight, had been taking a shower at the time of the incident. Upon questioning, he freely admitted to pointing the shower attachment out of the bathroom window for no particular reason. He asked for at least 37 previous offences to be taken into consideration. (This was why Madame was in the courtyard looking up at our flat in the first place.)

The next day I presented Charlie at her door with a large pot plant to apologise. She roared with laughter and then, sheepishly, handed over several days' mail.

TO 'TU' or not to 'tu', that is the question. Having been in

France for 18 months, we have reached the critical point when a few French people – admittedly only two in my case – have asked us to call them "tu" instead of "vous". This complicates one's life enormously.

It is terribly rude to call someone "tu" before they give you permission. It is even ruder to call someone "vous" when they have asked you to call them "tu". The point at which the change comes is a subject of great mystery.

There is a charming woman in our building who has befriended my wife. They have agreed to call each other "tu", but I still have to remember to say "vous". In the office next door to mine, there are French people who have worked together for 20 years or more. They call each other by their first names but still use the formal second person.

The British Embassy has a way of dealing with this. Its officials are instructed to write in their diaries and contacts books exactly when such-and-such a French official bestows on them the great honour of asking to be called "tu". This is a good way of ensuring no mistakes are made.

It is also a way of checking how effective diplomats are in making friends, not just contacts, among the massed ranks of French officialdom.

JOHN LICHFIELD

Howard saved from 'hateful' election race

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Sydney

AUSTRALIA APPEARED yesterday to have avoided a looming general election based on race after John Howard, the Prime Minister, negotiated a deal to get his controversial legislation on Aboriginal land rights passed through parliament.

Mr Howard's law will restrict the rights of Aborigines to claim "native title" over vast outback farming leases that white people have occupied for more than a century.

The bill has been left in a state of deadlock in the Senate, the upper house of federal parliament, since last year. The Prime Minister has staked his political reputation on the bill, and has threatened to dissolve both houses of parliament and call an election over the issue – despite the racial tension that such a campaign would inevitably produce.

But after a week of intense talks, and with parliament in Canberra due to rise for a long recess on Friday, Mr Howard yesterday moved closer to sealing a deal with Brian Harradine, the independent MP who holds the balance of power in the Senate. Mr Harradine is a maverick from Tasmania who joined forces with the opposition Labor Party earlier this year to block the bill, claiming it discriminated against Aborigines.

He once famously joined tribal elders from the Wik people of north Queensland, dancing with them to the sounds of didgeridoos outside parliament to show solidarity with their campaign to throw the bill out.

The Wik people's victory in the High Court in 1996, establishing that native title rights could exist on pastoral farming lands, induced Mr Howard to introduce the bill in an attempt to protect the interests of farmers against such claims.

Mr Harradine's deals with Mr Howard have infuriated Aboriginal leaders. They claimed yesterday that he had betrayed them.

But Mr Harradine defended himself, arguing that the moral

question of avoiding a "hateful" race-based election weighed more heavily with him in the end than that of passing the bill. The negotiations came in a dramatic day for Mr Howard, whose conservative coalition government has been reeling from the defeat of its counterpart in the Queensland state election on 13 June by the opposition Labor Party.

If the Wik bill now passes parliament after the Harradine deal, it will take the pressure off Mr Howard to call a double-dissolution election later this year. He could still call a general election for the House of Representatives, the lower house, where One Nation would be unlikely to win much support. But yesterday's poll has left the coalition rattled.

Mrs Hanson's party was itself shaken yesterday by revelations that it is consumed by internal struggles. The source was a sensational open letter written to the *Australian* by Barbara Hazelton, who resigned as Mrs Hanson's private secretary and confidante last week, claiming she had been pushed out.

Mrs Hazelton's main accusations were directed at David Oldfield, a smooth-talking, thirtysomething political operator from Sydney, who has emerged as a spokesman and frontman for the Queensland-based One Nation party.

Describing herself as a "heartbroken supporter", Mrs Hazelton claimed Mr Oldfield was taking over One Nation and trying to usurp Mrs Hanson, the party's founder.

"The danger facing One Nation is too serious to mince words," she wrote.

"Oldfield is a manipulative, hypnotic, hugely narcissistic individual who has taken almost complete control of Pauline's life – whether she realises it or not."

"It is painful to write these words," she concluded. "It is one of the saddest days of my life. But people need to know that One Nation has been hijacked and people are being hoodwinked if they think Hanson is still in control."

A national opinion poll published yesterday in the *Australian* newspaper confirmed Mr Howard's dilemma. It gave his coalition just 34 per cent support, the Labor Party 45 per cent and One Nation 13 per cent.

John Howard: political reputation on the line

which captured almost a quarter of the state vote.

Polling experts have suggested that, if Mr Howard held his double-dissolution federal election in this political climate, Mrs Hanson's party could repeat its performance on a national scale and capture several Senate seats. This could give them the balance of power there, and would mean the death of the Wik bill altogether.

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John Howard: political reputation on the line



A Russian police officer yawns as training continues in Moscow. 7,000 policemen were inspected by deputy interior minister Viktor Ga-
Ivan Sekretarev/AP

Austrians lobby for a better deal from EU

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

AUSTRIA FORMALLY takes over the rotating presidency of the European Union today, and has already served notice that a fairer division of national contributions to the EU budget will be a key theme of its six months in charge.

In a newspaper interview yesterday, Viktor Klima, the Austrian Chancellor, left no doubt that Germany, the Netherlands and Austria itself, the three largest net contributors in terms of share of GDP would press for reductions, even if that means re-opening the vexed question of the rebate Mrs Thatcher won for Britain in 1984.

"Fair and efficient burden-sharing must apply," Mr Klima said, adding that "it makes one think" how countries strong enough to join the single currency – such as Spain, Ireland and Portugal – are still receiving substantial net funds under the budget and seem loath to give up a penny of them.

Germany, by far the largest loser under current arrangements with a net contribution of 7bn ECU (£4.5bn), kicked off its "fair share" demand at

could yet be a watershed in the development of Europe.

Still, Austria – the first of the three "new boys" who entered in 1995 to hold the EU chair – will not change the world between now and December. "Six months is a short period," said Wolfgang Schüssel, the Foreign Minister. "None of the tasks facing the Union can be dealt with on a short-term basis."

One which certainly should not be, Vienna insists, is the enlargement process formally launched last March. Illegal immigration across the country's 1,300km border with four candidate states is already grist for the mill of Austria's right.

The other main theme of the Austrian presidency will be jobs, and the lowering of the present EU unemployment rate of around 11 per cent, but its highlight may be an informal summit at Innsbruck in October. The theme there will be bringing the Union closer to the people. This may prove just yet another exercise in cliché-mongering, but given

the power of the Brussels budget. Of this total, around 30 per cent will choose Austria. And once the applicants have become EU members, there will be nothing Vienna can do about it.

IN BRIEF

Kosovo war crimes claim

FIGHTING BETWEEN Serb forces and Kosovo Albanians has led to horrific attacks on civilians by armed forces on both sides, Amnesty International said yesterday.

"War crimes are being committed in Kosovo today," said Pierre Sane, Amnesty's secretary-general. Abuses were on a par with crimes committed during the war in Bosnia, he said.

Unknown soldier identified

AMERICA'S UNKNOWN soldier from the Vietnam war was formally identified yesterday as Michael Blassie, an airman shot down in May 1972. His body was exhumed last month from the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery after Blassie's family asked for his identification to be verified. Tests conducted at the time of burial, before DNA testing was available, concluded that he was not Blassie. The body will be handed over to the family for private burial, and the Pentagon will seek a genuinely "unknown" soldier to occupy the ceremonial tomb.

Abiola could be free this week

THE UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, met Nigeria's new military ruler, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, yesterday as government sources said the detained politician Moshood Abiola could be released this week. Mr Annan's spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said General Abubakar's promise to restore civilian rule was on the talks agenda.

War of the noses

TWO ICONS of the fashion industry, Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren, are clashing in court over a new perfume soon to be launched by Mr Lauren. Mr Klein claims the design of the bottle for Mr Lauren's Romance perfume is a direct copy of the bottle he uses for his fragrance Eternity.



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E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BRIEFING

IAE wins US explosives contract

BRITISH AEROSPACE's Royal Ordnance subsidiary has secured a \$160m (£96m) contract to supply the US Army with all its high explosives for the next five years. Royal Ordnance has been selected to operate the Holston army ammunition plant in Tennessee and to supply US armed forces with HMX and RDX high explosives. Part of the contract will also be carried out at the Bridgwater explosives plant in Somerset, which employs 180 people.

Greene King thrives on local pubs

WHILE NATIONAL brewers struggle to find expensive city-centre sites for concept pubs, Greene King, the East Anglian-based brewer, is working at turning more local pubs into community pubs, with food and a wide choice of rival beers and lagers to supplement its own two top ales, Abbott and Greene King IPA. Trading profits rose 16 per cent last year. Yesterday the group bought 43 pubs, with 212.2m. Investment column, page 21

MFI embarks on radical overhaul

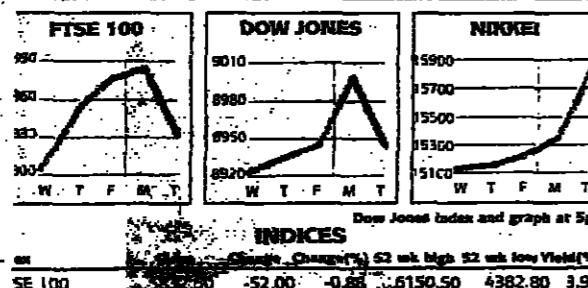
THE struggling furniture retailer, yesterday axed 500 jobs as part of a radical overhaul that will see it close in-store warehouses and concentrate on kitchens and bedrooms. Derek Hunt, the group's chairman, also attempted to put an end to bid speculation which has seen sales as high as £1.2bn linked with the company. "We have had no approaches from anyone about a possible bid," he said. "He admitted that if a bidder did approach the management might take the group private, in the years after he left a buy-out of MFI from Asda. 'I'm not going to forecast how we would react. I'm not going to let it [an MBO] out.'"

Page 18

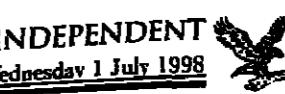
Jerrill sweeps investment Oscars

JERRILL LYNCH swept the board at the City's 'Oscars', the Exetel annual survey of investment analysts. The winners were announced at a gala lunch at the Guildhall in the City, where Fergus MacLeod of T Alex Brown picked up his fifth individual award for best highly-rated analyst. News analysis, page 19

STOCK MARKETS



	1 Jan	1 Feb	1 Mar	1 Apr	1 May	1 Jun
FTSE 100	1,093.17	1,093.17	1,093.17	1,093.17	1,093.17	1,093.17
Dow Jones	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55
Nikkei	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55
Indices	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55	1,084.55
SE 100	-52.00	-0.56	615.50	4,282.80	3,933.20	3,933.20
SE 250	-17.50	-0.32	5,270.90	4,282.80	3,421.20	3,421.20
SE 350	-22.10	-0.28	2,940.10	2,141.80	2,106.59	2,106.59
SE All Share	-20.93	-0.75	2,672.04	2,106.59	2,106.59	2,106.59
SE SmallCap	-11.30	-0.43	2,793.80	2,182.10	2,182.10	2,182.10
SE MidCap	-12.70	-0.27	151.10	122.20	3,241.20	3,241.20
SE AIM	-10.70	-0.50	114.90	965.90	965.90	965.90
SE FTSE 100	-10.93	-0.81	1,093.17	1,093.17	1,093.17	1,093.17
Dow Jones	-0.66	-0.60	926.91	657.32	1,600.32	1,600.32
Den	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55
DK Song	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55
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SE FTSE 100	-10.93	-0.81	1,093.17	1,093.17	1,093.17	1,093.17
Dow Jones	-0.66	-0.60	926.91	657.32	1,600.32	1,600.32
Den	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55
DK Song	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55	-1,084.55
SE SmallCap	-11.30	-0.43	2,793.80	2,182.10	2,182.10	2,182.10
SE MidCap	-12.70	-0.27	151.10	122.20	3,241.20	3,241.20
SE AIM	-10.70	-0.50	114.90	965.90	965.90	965.90
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MFI overhaul costs 1,500 jobs

MFI, the struggling furniture retailer, is cutting 1,500 jobs as part of a radical overhaul of its business that will see it close its in-store warehouses and concentrate solely on kitchens and bedrooms. Derek Hunt, the group's chairman, heralded the changes as "the biggest at MFI for 20 years".

In a complete reverse on its MFI HomeWorks store format, introduced three years ago, MFI plans to cut its product

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

lines from 12,000 to 5,000 by stripping out all upholstery, linen and houseware products. It will feature more kitchens and bedrooms with a greater choice of premium ranges.

"We are very strong in the mid-market range but we have lost share at the bottom end and don't have the market share we should have at more expensive

price points," Mr Hunt said. Mr Hunt attempted to put an end to bid speculation which has seen rivals such as Ikea linked with the company. "We have had no approaches from anyone about a possible bid," he said. But he said that if a bidder did materialise the management might take the group private, nine years after Mr Hunt led a buy-out of MFI from the Asda supermarket group. "I'm not going to forecast how

we would react. I'm not going to rule it [an MBO] out." He admitted that institutional investors in MFI had "not been best pleased" with the group's shares, which closed 2.5p higher at 63p yesterday compared to a 115p flotation price in 1993.

However, he said there had been no indications from shareholders that they wanted to see a change of management. He said he recognised that if there

were not improvements in a year's time then "questions" would be asked", but Mr Hunt said neither he nor John Randall, chief executive, had any plans to step aside. "If I believed there was someone out there who could do the job better I would willingly step aside. We are not going anywhere."

City analysts were not convinced by the changes and said the board would remain under pressure. "Their track record

shows that they make promises but often fail to deliver," said Louise von Blixen, retail analyst at SG Securities.

John Richards at BT Alex Brown said: I have no quarrel with the strategy. The problem has been in the implementation. They have been moving too slowly." He said further falls in the share price could alert bidders even though Ikea ruled it self out last week. "It is the largest and lowest cost base

kitchen producer in Europe. If current management can't deliver someone will have a go."

The reorganisation will cost £20m, of which £7m will be earmarked for redundancies.

The news came as MFI reported a 14 per cent fall in full-year profits to £60m. UK retail sales are 10 per cent below the period last year chiefly due to a weak market and higher interest rates, the company said. Outlook, page 19

Desire slumps after Falklands oil failure

BY TERRY MACALISTER

SHARES in Desire Petroleum lost nearly a quarter of their value yesterday after the latest well drilled off the Falkland Islands was abandoned without finding oil.

But Dr Colin Phipps, founder of Desire, said he still hoped hydrocarbons would be found, adding: "It would have been miraculous if a new oil province had been discovered with the first two wells drilled. It took 18 wells to find the North Sea."

Desire shares fell from 215p to 155p and its partner Lasmo's shares fell 4p to 240p as North Falklands well 14/13-1 was abandoned by operator Lasmo.

Desire was formed specially for the Falklands venture in April with £15m of new money. It had a 25 per cent stake in the well, but also holds fully-owned licences in the South Atlantic.

A formal statement from Desire said well 14/13-1 "penetrated potential reservoir formations but did not encounter hydrocarbons". The rig, Boringy Dolphin, has been passed on to Shell, which will drill a third well.

Earlier this year Amerada Hess sent Desire shares flying up by 24 per cent after it said it had found traces of hydrocarbons. It later abandoned this first well, saying oil had not been found in commercial quantities.

Alan Marshall, energy analyst with Robert Fleming, said: "No one can say there is nothing there yet. But if no one has found anything by the end of the year they might as well pack up and go home."

But Dr Phipps said the rig had been contracted for three years by different oil companies to work off the Falklands. Even with wells costing between \$10m (£6.25m) and \$15m each to drill, Desire had enough cash to keep going beyond 1998.



Chancellor Kohl shares a joke with Wim Duisenberg at the inaugural ceremony of the European Central Bank.

Kai Pfaffenbach

Blair clarifies UK policy on EMU

TONY BLAIR used the European Central Bank's (ECB) inaugural ceremony to stress there had been no change in the Government's policy on European Monetary Union (EMU).

In a speech to assembled dignitaries in Frankfurt, the Prime Minister also emphasised the importance of independence and transparency at the new ECB.

But he added: "There is not at present sustainable economic convergence between our economy and those elsewhere in Europe."

Mr Blair has been recently accused of softening his stance towards EMU, and his re-statement of UK policy comes only a week after the Sun launched an attack on the Government's European policy.

The question of the independence of the new bank is of "fundamental importance", according to the Prime Minister. He said the principle of independence must not be tampered with if the Bank's credibility is to remain intact. The Prime Minister added: "It was to protect that principle [of independence] that the negotiations were so protracted in May in Brussels."

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Can Nomura's alchemy be for real?

GUY HANNS, Nomura's head of principle finance, has called the shell company formed to bid for Thorn, "Future Rentals". This is a quite telling choice of name, for although nobody at Nomura was admitting last night that the intention was to securitise the new catch, preferring instead to say this was just an option, nobody can be in any doubt that securitisation is what, in practice, is going to happen.

The name gives it away. Future Rentals refers to what Thorn will become. This requires some explaining.

Nomura is an investment bank and it hasn't spent \$1.3bn on assets as diverse as pubs, a train-leasing company and a bundle of MoD housing merely to own them as tro

ps to refinance them in a way that will produce bumper returns for Nomura. It works like this. The secure income of the company – in Thorn's case, its steady stream of revenue from rentals – is sold off to investors, typically other banks, in the form of high-yielding bonds.

If the process works as planned, this pays for the cost of the acquisition and some. Nomura is then left with a core equity holding in the on-



OUTLOOK

going business – in Thorn's case any newly generated rental income – which can eventually be sold for a thumping great profit too. This may look ominously like a return to 1980s style financial engineering and certainly there are parallels.

But there are also key differences. These securitised deals are not like conventional leveraged buyouts.

In a traditional buyout, the equity in a company is leveraged by injecting a slug of bank debt and a raft of junk bonds, secured against the company as a whole. This can be dangerous, since if there is a recession or serious setback in the company's affairs, it may not be able to finance the debt.

In a securitised deal, the bonds are attached to specific revenue streams and they have no call on the rest of the business or on any future business the management secures. In theory, then, the whole process is a lot less risky. The risk of the leverage is taken by the bondholders, not the company.

Even so, there are good reasons to be suspicious of Nomura's alchemy. When value is multiplied in this way, there's always someone who ends up paying for the multiplier. In the case of a securitisation it seems to be those who buy the bonds. Nomura's clients may not always thank them for inventing this intriguing new process.

U-turn may not save MFI

AS U-TURNS GO yesterday's effort by MFI would be enough to put anyone's head in spin. It was only three years ago that the flat-packed furniture retailer was heralding its new Homeworks format as the best thing since, well, flat-packed furniture. The plan was to introduce more touchy-feely homeware ranges such as sofas, curtains and

crockery, to make the stores more of a destination for home-lovers.

Kitchens and bedrooms would still be the bedrock of the business, but the new stuff would be placed at the front of the store as a crowd puller. Unfortunately, the crowds declined to be pulled. Instead they were chucking out the MFI wardrobe along with the chintz and heading off to IKEA. So now it's back to basics.

What we were dished up with yesterday, along with a lamentably poor set of results, is an attempt to re-position MFI as "simply kitchens and bedrooms" (perhaps that should be the new name), with broader ranges that will include a greater selection of upmarket kitchens. In-store warehouses will close and the space sub-let to other retailers, yielding around £10m a year in rental income.

The problem is that once you have got rid of your warehouses, the shops can't carry any stock. Instead all orders will be delivered to the home from central warehouses. That means customers will not be able to take any purchases home straightaway.

Just how much damage that will do to trade remains to be seen, but

this really does look like desperate, last throw of the dice stuff. MFI is budgeting for a 15 per cent fall in sales, but says the increased kitchen and bedroom sales will be higher margin as it makes these ranges itself under the Hygena and Schreiber names.

It may work, but the risks are high and the track record of this management in delivering on its promises is poor. With its wobbly wardrobe connotations, MFI will struggle to find a niche further upmarket. And asking people to wait up to 14 days for any order could defer more punters than MFI thinks.

That said, MFI still has a huge market share and just because the company is down on its luck does not necessarily mean it is dead and buried. Look at Woolworths a few years ago. The question about this company remains the same as it was six months ago. Is the present management team the right one to take it forward? Derek Hunt, the MFI chairman with the build of a nightclub bouncer, admits that if performance has not improved in 12 months' time, then serious questions will be asked of him and his chief executive John Randall. They may not be given that much time.

Bridgeman to get his flags

IN HIS offices at the Justice Department in Washington, Joe Klein, America's chief trust-buster and the man who took on Microsoft, has a giant map of the world. It is decorated with little flags showing where the world's cartels meet. Our Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, has long coveted his own map and his own set of flags.

Now, thanks to the Government's new Competition Bill, which becomes law next autumn, he is at last about to get them.

The Bill will give the DG the sort of clout that competition authorities in Europe and across the Atlantic have come to take for granted. So stand by for dawn raids, spot fines and the euphemistically entitled "interim measure" – the right to shoot first and ask questions later when an abuse of monopoly power is suspected.

Quite who and what Mr Bridgeman's new lethal weapon will be directed at is not yet clear, however. In the regulatory version

of Catch 22, you first need the powers of investigation before you can discover which are the cartels and where they are operating. Mr Klein and Karel van Miert in Brussels know more about UK cartels than does Mr Bridgeman but they are not allowed to divulge the information for some perverse reason. Unveiling of the OFT's annual report yesterday, Mr Bridgeman rolled out a few suspects – ready mixed concrete and replica football shirts.

Mr Bridgeman wants to take on an extra 50 hired guns and extract a 25 per cent budget increase from the Treasury so that he has the fire power to shoot for bigger game once the Bill is law. It would help his case if the OFT had not had such an indifferent year – one third of its merger recommendations have been ignored by Margaret Beckett, while the "confidential guidance" system for would-be bidders has a credibility problem. It would also help Mr Bridgeman's new derring-do image if he did not operate from the dingiest set of offices in London.

In the meantime, he has decided to appeal direct to the public, Police Five style, for information. Where you spot a cartel, Mr Bridgeman will have a flag waiting.

News Analysis: Homegrown blue-blood analysts are yielding to the 'thundering herd'

Foreign players sweep City Oscars

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

MORE THAN 400 investment bankers, fund managers and financial journalists packed out the Guildhall in the City yesterday for the Square Mile's keenly awaited equivalent of the Oscars – the Exetel Survey of Investment Analysts.

In the 25th year since the awards were set up, Merrill Lynch "swept the board", in the words of the awards' founder Geoffrey Osmint, getting the thumbs up from the fund management community for its pan-European research effort.

Merrill's, nicknamed "the thundering herd" in the US because of its vast size and ability to move markets, beat last year's winner SBC Warburg Dillon Read by almost 20 per cent of the votes.

BT Alex Brown, created by Bankers Trust last year when it bought out NatWest Markets' securities operation, came third, fourth, up a place from last year.

Mr Osmint said that the rosy world of blue-blooded British brokers that existed when he launched the first

Exetel awards in 1974 had given way to the bold world of US and Continental-owned "bulge bracket" banks that dominate the financial world today.

Mr Osmint added that the survey showed up the increasing amount of research being done in-house by fund managers, with 40 per cent relying on in-house generated in-

house research.

The survey revealed also the deep and "unambiguous" dissatisfaction with the new SETS electronic dealing system, he said, with 77 per cent of fund managers finding it "no improvement" on the old system.

Merrill Lynch, which bought out UK market makers Smith New Court and fund managers Mercury Asset Management, were voted top in the qualitative assessment of their sales team and execution as well as research.

Merrills also topped the table for UK sector research in the poll, which is published by Financial Times Information.

Charles Lambert, head of research at Merrill Lynch for the UK, Europe, the Middle

East and Africa, said: "This year's result is very pleasing. We've worked very hard over the last two years building up the team and introducing the pan-European approach, slowly and quietly. We've got very good morale. We recruited heavily in the first year [of the merger], but it's quieter now."

Personally, Mr Lambert has another celebration looming next Monday – the 11th anniversary of his joining Smith New Court.

For an unprecedented fifth year running, Fergus MacLeod's integrated oil team at BT Alex Brown won the "all stars" rating for the top-ranked Dillon team.

Mr MacLeod was again the most highly-rated individual analyst, ahead of Charles Burrows, who covers engineering for HSBC. Mr MacLeod and his team formerly worked for NatWest Markets.

To what did Mr MacLeod ascribe his success? "A strong team, sustained over time," Mr MacLeod said modestly yesterday. "We also have a strong energy consultancy at Wood Mackenzie."

"I genuinely like the sector,"

I'm interested in the industry, and that does make the hours doable," he said.

Famous amongst his colleagues for his enthusiasm for cars, especially Porsches, the Renault Spider-owning Mr MacLeod had to send a fellow worker to collect his Exetel New Court.

Mr MacLeod was educated at King's School, Chester and Oxford. When he graduated in 1982 he went straight into a management traineeship with Shell.

This was where his fascination with oil was born, he says. He left after three years to work for Schroder Investment Management and then for BZW before joining County NatWest, now NatWest Markets, in 1990.

Is Mr MacLeod considering a move to another bank for bigger money? "No," he replies simply. Does he have any advice for his rivals? "Maybe it's a bit unfair if one person keeps winning something. Keep trying," he concluded.

The few British-owned houses – what's left of them – certainly have their work cut out. The City's version of Tim Herrman Schroder Securities, were fast risers in the Exetel rankings, entering the top 10 all sectors pan-European league at ninth place. Schroders increased their share of votes by two-thirds and moved to eighth from 11th in the UK sector league.

Blue-blooded Cazenove, in contrast, languished at number 18 in the pan-European table and 16 in the analysts' UK ratings.

Credit Suisse First Boston, following the absorption of BZW's securities operation last year, were voted first for their team covering UK equity market strategy.

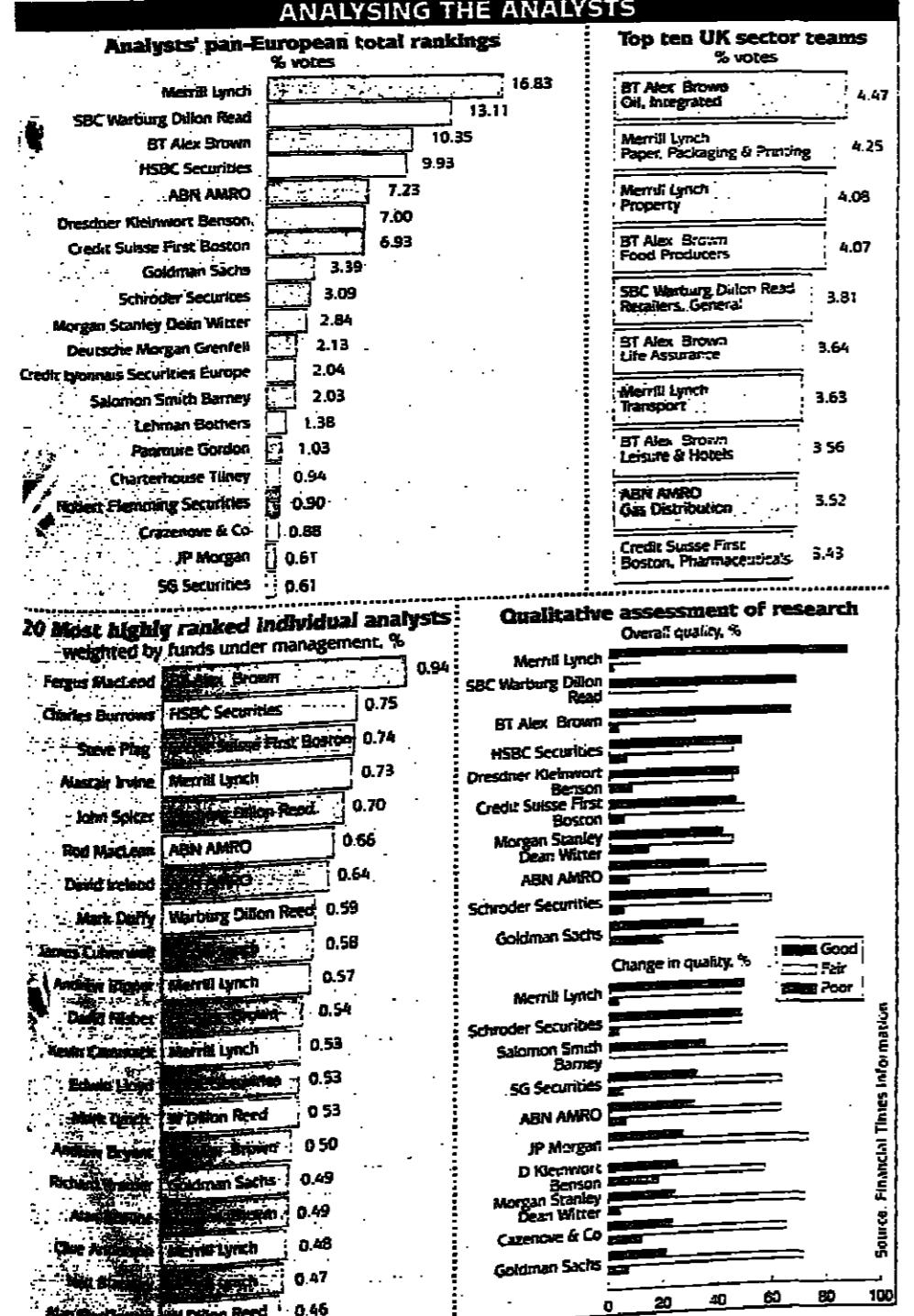
A total of 118 fund managers with combined funds of nearly £2,000bn responded to the survey, and votes were weighted by size of funds under management.

This year, a sample of fund managers from continental Europe was included.

The survey, which focuses on the UK and continental Europe, polled finance directors of the top 350 UK companies for the first time. They voted Merrill Lynch the best broker by a large margin and voted Prudential Portfolio Managers as the best fund manager, just ahead of Mercury Asset Management – also owned by the omnipresent Merrill Lynch.

Geoffrey Osmint, presenting the results, noted that fund managers were keen on taking a medium to long-term view in their briefings. "Any short termism comes from the analysts employed by brokers," he told the City though.

The survey also suggested a headlong rush on to the Internet by fund managers and brokers alike.



Fergus MacLeod: 'I'm interested in the oil industry, and that makes the hours doable.' Trevor Humphries

Second writ lodged over RAC windfalls

By ANDREW VERITY

800 former members could be in a similar position.

The writ follows a similar action 10 days ago by 150 "overseas members" who paid lower subscriptions as they would not have use of the facilities in Pall Mall, central London.

Under the club's rules, only 12,000 "full members" with voting rights are entitled to benefit from the sale. Subscribers to rescue services are excluded.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, and John Mitchell Neill, head of the Unipart group, are two of the most prominent members of the committee who may be forced to pay compensation if the action succeeds.

The members say they have missed out on windfall pay-outs of £25,000 each because the RAC failed to tell them of the impending sale when they resigned full membership of their club. They claim the RAC was obliged, under rule 19 of its rules, to act on behalf of all members, and had a duty to keep them informed of its plans under a contract signed between full members and the committee. It is believed up to

A RAC spokesman yesterday dismissed the claims as "absolutely ridiculous. If the board of a company that was to demutualise announced it, there would be carpetbaggers all around Pall Mall. We are extremely sure of our position. We'll look forward to seeing these people in court."

Savings Rates.

From start of business on 1st July 1998 the following rates of interest are applicable to the accounts set out below.

OLD RATE GROSS %*	NEW RATE GROSS %*	NEW RATE NET %*
Flexible Savings Account - Paid Monthly		
£25,000+	4.60	3.72
£10,000-24,999	4.25	3.45
£5,000-9,999	3.75	3.07
£10,000-24,999	3.40	2.76
£500-4,999	0.50	0.50
£1-4,999	0.50	0.50
Instant Gold Savings Account - Paid Annually		
£50,000+	6.00	5.00
£25,000-49,999	5.70	4.76
£10,000-24,999	5.40	4.52
£2,500-9,999	5.05	4.24
£1-2,499	0.50	0.40
Instant Gold Savings Account - Paid Monthly		
£50,000+	6.00</	

Anglo-German bank deal rumoured

THE SUSPICION that a major financial deal is on the horizon was given another whirr as stories surfaced of an Anglo-German link.

Barclays was put forward as the British constituent; Commerzbank the German offering. The rumours originated on the Continent. As they filtered through to the stock market, Barclays for a time bucked the downward trend, gaining 6p to 1,741p. But eventually the shares were caught in the market malaise, ending 7p off at 1,729p.

The Barclays story was merely the latest financial potboiler to intrigue the market. There is a deep conviction that more financial deals are in the pipeline with the former building societies seen as obvious candidates. Cross-border mergers are becoming an increasingly popular development and a deal which only a few years ago would have been regarded as near to impossible is well within the realms of possibility as British banks strain to accommodate the euro, and German groups such as Commerzbank seek a more powerful British presence.

The rest of the market suffered

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

a downbeat session, with Footsie off 52 points at 5,835.5, ending a five-day winning streak. Supporting shares were also hit. The mid cap fell 17.5 to 5,503.8; it is now 428 below the peak hit three weeks ago. The small cap index lost another 11.3 to 2,606.4.

Tomkins, one of the few diversified groups still proud to be a conglomerate, led the Footsie leader board. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson support lifted the shares 11.25p to 325.25p. The investment house felt the Tomkins fall, from 378.75p earlier this year, had been overdone.

It also made complimentary noises about a range of engineering shares.

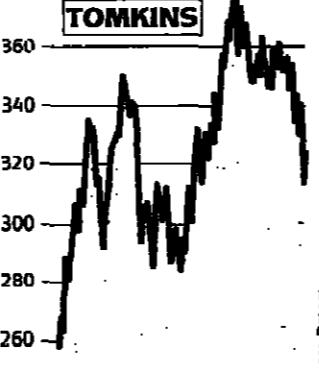
The power groups were among the day's major casualties as the industry regulator claimed the two major generators, National Power and PowerGen, had pushed up prices by 30 per cent last winter. Professor Stephen Littlechild warned he would ask the Government to force the generators to sell some of their coal-fired plants.

NP, already experiencing an acrimonious relationship with Westminster, fell 13.5p to 564p; PG, hoping its Westminster connections are more friendly, firmed 30.5p to 826p.

Worries about the future strength of the economy and the daunting prospect of even higher interest rates weighed heavily on sentiment. The last day of the financial quarter is rarely the occasion for determined institutional activity and with Wimbledon and preparations for the England clash with Argentina, the market had little incentive to display much liveliness.

It seemed ironic that Desire Petroleum, seeking oil and gas off the Falkland Islands, should select

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



Source: Datastream

which nurse stakes in Desire, also suffered. The Greenwich shares fell 2.75p to 20.25p and Westmount 31p to 84p. Greenwich touched 40.25p at the height of the Falklands excitement and Westmount 27.5p.

Safeway firmed to 392.5p following a more optimistic than expected trading statement, but Wickes, the do-it-yourself retailer, fell 25p to 282.5p on stories, quickly denied, of a pending profits warning. MFI, duly presented poor figures but ended 2.5p higher at 65p on hopes that its revitalisation programme will succeed.

Utilities were sought on safe-haven arguments with Thames Water up 10p to 1,091p. Railtrack, however, failed to hold an early run.

At one time the shares were up 34p with Merrill Lynch proclaiming a 1,630p target. But the gloom clouds enveloped the group and the shares struggled to hold on to a 1p gain at 1,469p.

Thorn jumped 19.5p to 230p in late trading as Nomura, with another securities deal, emerged as the bidder, offering 250p. It was a pleasant development for fund manager PDM. On the last day of the quar-

ter it was able to book the sale of a 9.5 per cent stake and acceptance of a further 9.6 per cent interest.

ARM, the chip maker, celebrated its first day in the mid cap index with an 80p gain to 1,185p but high-flying Psion lost some of its exuberance, off 42.5p to 650p as director Daniel Fizzman sold just over two million shares, representing 2.5 per cent. Most were sold at 600p; a few at 625p.

Profit warnings hit Richardson Westgarth, once a shipbuilder, now an engineer, off 19.5p to 60p, and William Sinclair, makers of garden

ITG, THE FIRST company to get a dual listing on AIM and Dublin's equivalent, the Developing Companies Market, is nearly doubling its size by paying up to £10m for Teletcentral, a provider of managed payphone and payfax services. The takeover has prompted ITG to raise £12m through a placing and open offer at 270p. The company, an Irish communications provider, is thought to be near to dialing up another acquisition. Its shares were suspended at 307.5p while the takeover is completed; they were floated at 148p last year.

THE OLD Omnimedia returned following the reverse takeover of SEC, a recruitment group. The deal was completed at 60p. The shares, in effect, gained 22.75p to 84.5p.

FERRARIS, a little medical group, firmed to 123p as Henderson Crosthwaite said buy. Last set of profits: £1.7m.

Greene King finds the right pub brew

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

UNLIKE MANY of its brewing rivals who are bent on specialisation Greene King is firmly committed to remaining a broadly based vertically integrated regional brewer. This means having strong ale brands and building up its tenanted pub division as well as its managed houses.

As city-centre sites become dearer and harder to find, the strategy includes turning more of its houses into "community pubs" with an increasing emphasis on food and a choice of other brands.

That play seems to be working and for the third year running the group has outperformed most of its peers. In the year to the beginning of May turnover rose 12 per cent while trading profit jumped 16 per cent. Before tax and exceptional, profits rose 19 per cent to £23.5m, although the headline figures were boosted by £2m of property profits and exceptional costs of £1.4m in the previous year.

Trading profits from the 467

managed houses grew by 23 per cent in spite of pub disposals. Meanwhile, Pub Partners, the estate of 628 tenanted houses, managed a creditable 2 per cent improvement.

The brewing and brands business advanced 18 per cent, with volumes strongly higher in an otherwise flat market. The brewery is working at 90 per cent of capacity on a single shift and the disposal programme is nearly complete.

Yesterday Greene King added to its portfolio by clinching the acquisition of Beards of Sussex, a privately owned chain of 43 pubs in Sussex and Kent, for £12.2m.

Analysts have edged forecasts for the current year up to a touch of £48.4m and £53.1m next year, with earnings per share rising from 60.3p to 66.2p. The shares added 16.5p to 275.5p yesterday, but at 12 times this

year's earnings and 11 times next year's they look attractive.

ARM's chips with everything

PSION'S SOFTWARE joint venture with three mobile phone manufacturers has already propelled the hand-held computer maker's shares to new highs.

But another winner from the day is ARM, the Cambridge-based computer design company. ARM designs the chips which support the software used in Psion's Series 5 machine.

Until last week, the market was for those chips looked limited. But now that Ericsson, Motorola and Nokia have signed up to use the software in a new generation of "smart" mobile phones and wireless computers, ARM's potential is enormous. The main

attraction of ARM's chips is that they are both powerful and efficient, making them ideal for use in battery-powered machines. The company does not manufacture the chips itself, but licenses the design and receives a fee for every chip sold.

Uses for ARM's technology go beyond mobile computing. Last week Cirrus Logic and Lucent Technologies, two large US chip suppliers, adopted ARM's architecture to develop sophisticated system-on-a-chip products for data storage devices.

These factors have not been lost on investors. Floated at 575p two months ago, ARM shares have raced ahead, hitting an all-time high of 119.5p up 90p, yesterday.

A value of £570m for a company that made profits of just £3m last year may look wildly optimistic. But once royalties start flowing they will drop straight through to the bottom line. Hambrecht & Quist, the US hi-tech broker, expects revenues of £39m this year. More importantly, it reckons that with

GREENE KING: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £440m, share price: 727.5p (+16.5p)

Trading record

1994 1995 1996 1997 1998

Turnover (£m) 146.0 154.0 165.0 254.0 283.0

Pre-tax profits (£m) 20.4 22.1 22.7 21.3 45.3

Earnings per share (p) 33.7 36.8 39.9 25.6 57.7

Dividends per share (p) 12.1 13.1 14.5 16.4 18.4

Trading profits

1997 1998

Share price (pence)

800 700 600 500 400

Source: Datastream

Pub Company 35 52 48 52 52

Pub Partners 20 22 20 22 22

Brewing & Brands 15 15 15 15 15

Source: Datastream

Pub Company 35 52 48 52 52

Pub Partners 20 22 20 22 22

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SPORT

Adams turns from frog to prince

Three years ago, cynics saw a raw spinner as South Africa's token non-white cricketer. Tomorrow he seeks his 55th Test wicket. By Derek Pringle

THE NEW South Africa can be a bewildering place. With expectation outpacing change, the pressure for people to deliver is enormous. None more so than the country's sportsmen and women, role models of all creeds and colours for the Rainbow Nation. If England's cricketers and foot-balls claim to feel the pressure of expectation, they should try being Paul Adams.

As the second of only three Cape Coloureds to have played for South Africa, Adams is unusual. A left-arm wrist-spinner whose stock delivery turns away from the right-hander, he is unique; a happy accident, even.

Yet in sport first impressions can be misleading and the man who started out bowling like a "frog in a blender" has since been kissed by experience. He now plays the prince to Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock's kings. Unsurprisingly all three are idolised like royalty.

"When I was first picked for Test cricket I just got on and played," said Adams, on a rare rest day for the team. "But as time went on, you see kids at the side of the road trying to copy you. It's then that you realise you're there as a role model too.

"I played my first Test when I was 18, and I hope young kids will see that as an example that you can get to the top when you're young. I feel inspired, not pressurised by that."

When South Africa dismantled apartheid, part of the healing was to fast-track those who had been marginalised by the regime. When Adams made his Test debut against England two and a half years ago in Port Elizabeth, after just five first-class matches, he was the youngest South African to do so.

In fact, his rise was so meteoric, that Hansie Cronje had to bat against him, just to see where he might set the field. To the cynics, though, the whole thing smacked of tokenism and many felt that he may as well have been fed to the wolves.

Now 21, and with 54 wickets from 17 Tests, he has proved the doubters wrong, becoming a more consistent operator than the novelty act many initially felt him to be. Comparisons with that other wrist spinner, Shane Warne, are probably inappropriate, except that at the same age, Warne had yet to play Test cricket.

"He has more variation now than when he started," explains Bob Woolmer, South Africa's coach. "He believes in himself and realises he is an important member of the squad. In the past he's been a little impatient, but he's learnt to wait and create pressure. I firmly believe that by the time he's 28, he will have become a complete spinner and achieved much."

But while there is little doubt that Adams has improved his control - Richie Benaud believes he is unrecognisable from the bowler who toured Australia 10 months ago - his action is so unusual, one wonders



Paul Adams, the spinner with the unorthodox style (below right), remains undaunted by being a hero to so many. "I feel inspired, not pressurised by that," he says

Peter Jay

who he might turn to for advice.

Known to his team mates as "Gogga" (which means "insect" and is pronounced "Hokka"), with the "k" sound coming from deep in the throat, Adams does not see his idiosyncrasies as a hurdle. He watches and chats to all spinners, picking up the things he feels he can apply to his own imitable action.

His variations include a quicker top spinner and an arm ball, though the chinaman (a ball that comes in to right-handers) cannot be delivered without an obvious change in action, which telegraphs it, making it less effective.

Yet while it is sleight of hand that gives wrist spinners much of their mystique and potency, even someone as successful as Warne doesn't much bother with a googly, which in his case is easily read. Excessive vari-

ation is not a necessity and when there is turn in the pitch, as there was on the fourth day at Lord's, Adams looked South Africa's best bowler.

Adams lives in the Cape Town suburb of Grassy Park, a place described locally as lower middle-class, and wedged between the cool vineyards of Constantia and the windy sandflats of False Bay. In Cape Town house prices are highest wherever the wind doesn't blow, and Grassy Park is more Brighton than Hove.

Schooled at nearby Plumstead High, Adams, one of three brothers, started off playing street cricket before graduating to club level. After a stint with Bluebells, he joined St Augustine, the club Basil D'Olivera once played for. It was here that Eddie Barlow, a former Test player, "saw something special", and

pestered the Western Province selectors to get Adams involved.

Like many kids, he wanted to be a batsman. His idol was Peter Kirsten, an elegant strokeplayer whose deeds for Western Province were matched by those for Derbyshire. When Adams did get round to bowling, it was seen as a small lad could muster.

Persuaded that pace was not an option for someone so short - he is only 5ft 6in tall now - he turned to spin, and a rarer version of the action you now see. Nigel Felton, a former player with both Somerset and Northamptonshire, remembers coaching him.

"It was an amazing sight, this small kid almost turning himself inside out to spin the ball," recalls Felton. "You can't coach an action like that, but it was obviously so natural

to him that you didn't dare change it. In any case, he was lethal and bamboozled the other kids."

He is by all accounts, at least off a cricket pitch, still deliciously naive. When touring India, he happened across his team-mates packed into the team room watching the Ryder Cup on TV. "What's happening?" Adams inquired. "It's the second day at Valderrama," Cronje replied. "Oh he's my favourite player," Adams retorted. "Let's have a look."

Like many 21-year-olds, Adams has an abiding love of dancing and rap music. It is something that is not always appreciated by his team-mates, who refer to the music as "crap" whenever Tupac Shakur and Puff Daddy are inflicted upon them.

Celebrity moves quickly for those who enthuse and fire the imagination, and Adams has surely done that. Taking delivery of his first sponsored car before he had even had a single driving lesson, he had to be driven around by his elder brother.

Now, though, the L-plates are off. As long as he can find his way to Old Trafford, he will once again - as he has been doing all tour - patiently steer England's batsmen down those cul-de-sacs where Donald and Pollock lie in wait. They have been warned.



Costume drama at Old Trafford

LANCASHIRE HAVE banned "offensive" costumes and bringing alcohol into Old Trafford as part of their crowd control policy for the Third Test, which starts tomorrow.

Members will be allowed to bring a "limited" amount of alcohol into the ground, but paying customers will be prevented from bringing any - al-

though they will be able to buy beer from the numerous outlets throughout Old Trafford.

Fancy dress, which has been a feature of home Tests for the last few years, will also have to be toned down, while hats, wigs and head-dresses which would restrict viewing

are also banned. The measures are designed to prevent the numerous pitch invasions which marred last summer's Test against Australia.

"We are committed to ensuring that people enjoy their day out at the cricket in a safe and friendly atmosphere," Dave Edmundson, the Lancashire secretary, said.

Henley yardstick for Pinsent's progress

ROWING

BY HUGH MATHESON

HENLEY ROYAL Regatta opens this morning, offering five days of racing to decide the real progress of several key British crews which will be measured against the best foreign competition. In the Stewards' Cup for coxed fours the low entry of four crews, entered under their club names, hides a bare-knuckle confrontation between the Olympic champions of 1992 and 1996 from Australia known as the "Awesome Foursome" and the world champions of last year entered here as Leander Club, thought of locally as the "Pink Palace" which squats benignly a couple of hundred metres beyond the finish line of the course.

Both crews have suffered recent defeat and race here to re-establish crew pride and the habit of winning. The Australians were beaten in domestic trials and came to Europe in the World Cup second round in Belgium in June. The British lost Tim Foster their instigator No 3 man,

when he put his hand through a window at a party. He is recovered and back in the crew now but only after they finished fourth in the World Cup at Munich without him.

After that race the previously invincible Matthew Pinsent, who strokes the crew, felt that the field and especially the Romanians who won were significantly faster than any crew they had met before. Obviously, the Hazewinkel race was won by the new Australians who took three seconds from Romania over the last quarter.

The Grand Challenge Cup for eight will see a substantially revamped British eight with two Oxford men on board face the new German eight with two Light Blues, Stephan Forster and Marc Weber, who beat them in the Boat Race in March. On Saturday the first eight from Argentina to race at rowing's headquarters might feel that Hazelwinkel's peculiar one mile and 550 yards is too short to hold off a dynamic German crew. On the other side of the draw, the British have some measure of the French nation-

al crew having beaten them by half a length in Belgium.

In the Diamond Sculls the world champion Jamie Koven, from the United States, and last year's winner, Greg Searle, face each other on either side of the draw. Both slumped at the World Cup in Belgium but may be wise to treat the season as a long one with the September World Championships as the time to come good. Neither will be pushed hard on the way to the final.

For the first time there will be an invitation event for women's eights with the national crews from Australia, Canada, the US and Britain. At Hazelwinkel two weeks ago the British crew was squeezed out by the Australians just before half-way and dropped another two seconds in the second 1,000m.

Today's programme includes the first round of three times world champion, said: "David is certainly not out of it yet. He's had problems and that can happen to any grand prix team. It can change very quickly. We know he's fast enough and could win three or four races back-to-back. It can be done."

Stewart backs his protégé

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP

JACKIE STEWART embarked on another stage in the development of his Formula One team yesterday, but still had a thought for one of his proteges, David Coulthard.

Stewart, speaking at the 200 strong workforce at his Northamptonshire base, will provide the impetus for the team to join Coulthard, one of his former junior drivers, in the championship contest proper in the next two to three years.

Coulthard goes into the British Grand Prix at Silverstone, on Sunday week, trailing his McLaren-Mercedes team-mate Mika Hakkinen by 20 points and Ferrari's Michael Schumacher by 14 points.

However, Stewart, the three-times world champion, said: "David is certainly not out of it yet. He's had problems and that can happen to any grand prix team. It can change very quickly. We know he's fast enough and could win three or four races back-to-back. It can be done."

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Corinthian classic returns to Cowes

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER

THE MEDIA mogul Ted Turner raced one, the US Secretary of State, Bobby Mosbacher, had blazed the trail before him, and even the actor Yul Brynner loved them enough to buy one. Britain won Olympic medals in them, Robert "Stug" Perry in 1956, Robin Aisher in 1964, and hardly anyone now knows anything about them.

This week, at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club in Cowes, the 5.5-metre class is celebrating its golden, glowing good health and 50th anniversary with a world championship that has attracted 26 boats from 10 countries.

This is an elite club and an expensive one. A three-man day boat will cost you at least £70,000 to build new, another £10,000 for sails, and may then cost 50 per cent of that a year to take to various regattas, in the nicest and most expensive of venues. You need a 4x4 and a trailer, lots of hi-tech new sails, plenty of spare and new

gear and, of course, nice hotels to stay in for all three.

Everyone has heard of the 66ft-plus 12m class (the 12 metres refers to the handicap class not the length), for so long the America's Cup boat, their little brothers the 6m and perhaps even the 8m and 10m classes. But the 5.5m was born in the Solent when, in 1948, Charles Nicholson produced a 30ft design of yacht based on those same elegant looks of the metre yachts, but lighter in displacement, with more zing and pace.

It was meant for Olympic competition and was one of the classes that is pre-1970, in the Cowes gathering the new boats continue to develop in all the racy ways. The keels and rudders sport aeroplane-style performance-enhancing wings and winglets. The masts are made of carbon-fibre and cost £12,000 each and have been an area of frenzied development.

Yet on the water, at a casual glance, you would still be looking at old-fashioned elegance, and some rather old-fashioned faces. The defending champion is that invertebrate American contestant, 63-year-old Glen Foster, and the average age is rather high. Still, with nearly 200 boats racing regularly in Switzerland and good representation in Europe and Australia, the Olympians of yesteryear make a heart-warming sight back on their original home patch.

5.5M CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
(Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, Cowes):
Round five - tomorrow, round six - Thursday, round seven - Friday
All start times 11.00 subject to conditions

Court circuit
Room to
phobia

The home challenge: Henman looks to emulate Taylor's feat of 25 years ago by reaching men's singles semi-finals

Henman's brain must take the strain



Henman: All England expects

SOMEWHERE ALONG the line Wimbledon and the World Cup appear to have cross-dressed. Normally you would expect bulletins about groin strains etc to be coming from the England camp but, Gareth Southgate excepted, the injury focus has settled on the All England Club.

Greg Rusedski, Sam Smith, Serena Williams; the Wimbledon medics are running the risk of running out of bandages, but at least the home country could rest easy. After two weeks worrying whether Our Greg or Our Sam would make it to court, it is the person standing in the way of Our Tim who was the subject of the medical bulletins yesterday.

At least Britain could relax until this information arrived. Sadly for those who want Tim Henman to become the first British men's semi-finalist since Roger Taylor 25 years ago by hook or by crook, the news

Guy Hodgson looks ahead to today's quarter-final between the British No 1 and his talented Czech opponent, Petr Korda

about Petr Korda yesterday was gloomily optimistic. So healthy was his left Achilles that he cancelled a planned trip to hospital.

Now it comes down to soundness between the ears and here we are wandering into the unknown in Korda's case and into the unproven in Henman's. For two years running the British No 2 has reached the quarter-finals and even if he has not frozen he has certainly been comprehensively beaten.

Against Todd Martin in 1996, Henman lost 7-6, 7-6, 6-4, and against Michael Stich the following year the scoreline was more depressing, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. He has yet to win a set in the last-eight stage so why are there reasons to be optimistic today?

The most copper-bottomed was his performance against Pat Rafter on Monday when he defeated the sixth seed with something to spare.

"I was definitely very calm and

in control of things," Henman said

before turning to today's match.

"I think I'm playing better than I

have done in the last couple of

years. I prepared very well for

those quarter-finals and wouldn't

change a thing. I just hope the re-

sult's different this time."

That will depend on Korda's mood. On his day the 30-year-old Czech is as good as anyone who currently brandishes a tennis racket for a living. Last year he beat Pete Sampras at the US Open and took him to five sets in the fourth round here. He also has this year's

Australian Open title at the top of his curriculum vitae. On the reverse side, the bad days can be very bad.

Which is possibly why he refers to the current position as "five to 12 in my career" although, in a sense, he is on borrowed time anyway. In 1995 he was close to giving up the game after what he thought was a groin strain refused to go away. It took his then coach Tony

Pickard, who guided Stefan Edberg to six Grand Slam singles titles and

was presiding over Greg Rusedski's career until last week, to diag-

nose something worse. The injury

turned out to be a torn hernia.

The two have remained friends

and it was revealing that one of the

first people Korda phoned on win-

ning in Australia was his erstwhile

coach. "Doctor," he said, using his personal nickname for Pickard. "Doctor, we did it."

Pickard was on court when Korda slipped against John van Lottum on Monday night and it appeared a doctor would be needed to repair the injured Achilles. It is an intriguing thought that the Czech will have Rusedski's former mentor on his side when he goes into bat against Henman today.

"We are very close friends," Korda said. "Whenever I have had problems, on or off court, I know where I can call to get advice."

Who will win? Their head-to-head record is 2-2, with the last encounter in Henman's favour. "Tim can do it, there's no reason why he can't," Rafter said. "He's very talented. But with Petr you never know. He can have some horrors but at this stage he looks pretty solid. He's one of the most dangerous players in the world."



Korda: Australian champion

'Unknown' Italian to march on Krajicek

Davide Sanguinetti attracts pessimism rather than a crowd. By Guy Hodgson

IT WAS not hard to find the unknown quarter-finalist yesterday afternoon. Just walk in the opposite direction to the crowds and you had a good chance of bumping into Davide Sanguinetti's match. They call Court 18 a show court although the more appropriate expression would have been no-show.

Sampras, Henman, Krajicek, Ivanisevic in the roll call of the last eight mostly had a familiar ring to it but Sanguinetti, who? At the start of his match against Francisco Clavet the crowd could most politely be described as disappointing; by the end it was rabidly indifferent. If it had not been for a knot of Italian journalists in one corner the sound of silence would have been complete.

Not that those scribes were talking their man up yesterday morning. Two independent sources arrived at the conclusion that the 26-year-old from Viareggio had little chance against Clavet, who had won their previous two meetings and who had the scalp of the No 2 seed, Marcelo Rios, dangling from his belt. "Not strong enough," one said. "He will be overpowered," the other.

The world rankings 65 to 36 did not encourage hope either but, like we journalists, what do they know? Sanguinetti won at a canter, 7-6, 6-1, 6-4, to become the first Italian to reach Wimbledon's quarter-finals since Adriano Panatta.

So who is the man standing in the way of the 1996 champion, Richard Krajicek, this afternoon? Even the Italian tennis federation had little clue in his formative years giving him grudging or no help until he had graduated from the Harry Hopman Academy in Florida seven years ago and gained an economics degree at UCLA, California.

The son of the man who prints Italy's tax forms, he began playing tennis at seven and, like most of his compatriots, prefers clay courts. Unlike most back-court players, however, he is prepared to adjust his game to suit the conditions and against Clavet he was charging the net like a latter day Stefan Edberg.

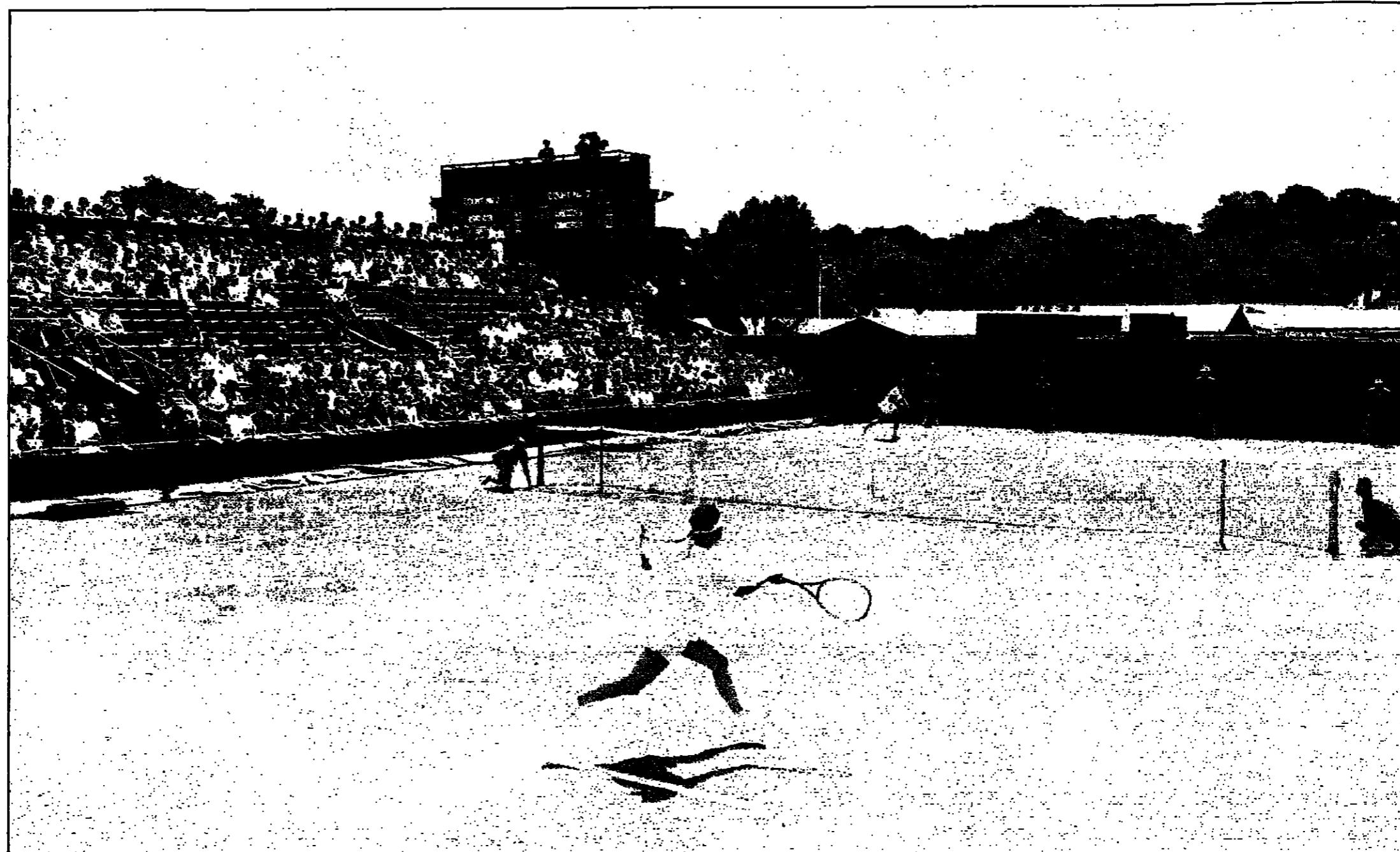
The two had practised together when they arrived at the All England Club when Sanguinetti won 6-1, 6-2 largely because Clavet finds it hard to pass the serve and volleyer. What had happened in fun proved pertinent to what happened in competition.

The first set was taken on a tie-break (7-3) and he raced through the second, going 5-0 up before Clavet could reply. Even when the Spaniard stemmed the flow by breaking back to 4-4 and going 40-15 in the third, he won nine points in a row to clinch it. His prize money already is \$56,550 which is a healthy return for a man whose previous experience of Wimbledon was a defeat in the second round of the qualifiers.

"I'm surprised, yes," he said, "because I didn't know how I'd respond to grass but as soon as I started to practise I felt really good. I have flat shots and they skid on the surface like a bar of soap, particularly my serve. People are having problems getting the ball back."

Against Krajicek, the Dutchman with the supercharged start, the soap might be on the other dish, something he acknowledges. "I'm happy with the way I'm playing," he said. "I just hope he's not going to serve like he has this week."

Either way, Sanguinetti should creep into the consciousness. You never know, someone might turn up to watch.



Martina Hingis, the No 1 seed from Switzerland, enjoys the open spaces of Court No 2 on the way to defeating the Thai Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-3, 6-2 yesterday

Robert Hallam



Venus Williams returns to Virginia Ruano Pascual yesterday

Williams prepares to storm Centre Court

VENUS WILLIAMS today stands as the stranger in Wimbledon's quarter-final camp, the only player in the last eight never to have been there before, the one with least to lose, the most to gain, as the reins tighten on the ambitions of the survivors.

The vision of Williams is striking at just 18, standing 5ft 1in, beads in her hair coloured sky blue, cobalt blue and white, but Williams will be seeking more than a visual impact now that her abilities have taken her to the Centre Court for the first time in singles to play one of the more regular occupants, Jana Novotna.

Williams has grasped the finger which beckons after her disappointment of last year when she was beaten in the first round. She may have been a novice on grass then but now she says: "I feel comfortable on the surface. I grew up on hard courts, so it is probably what I prefer and most of the season is on hard court or Supreme. So it is to my advantage. But when the other seasons come around I'm ready to go."

Before contemplating the challenge of Novotna, Williams attended to business on behalf of the family in the fourth round, defeating Virginia Ruano Pascual of Spain. In the previous round Pascual had progressed because Serena Williams, Venus's younger sister, had to quit with a leg injury against her – but there was not the slightest chance of the Spaniard beating Venus on merit. Venus won 6-3, 6-1 and said: "I wanted to win every point, all the points that Serena could not win yesterday, and I didn't like it that she (Ruano Pascual) came back to 4-3 and I thought that was really negligent on my part. So I had to get serious, and make sure that she didn't get too many more games."

There were signs at Eastbourne, on the eve of Wimbledon, that Williams and grass court demands were too far apart, that her coldish approach to the surface needed

Guy Hodgson reports on the powerful American keen to prove herself on grass and upset the form book against the experienced Novotna

more discipline. But that evidence has proved to be circumspect at best and she has won four matches without conceding a set. She says: "I am trying to get as serious as possible and I want to have every point and not the other person, so if I want to win something like this I am going to have to work for it, it's not just going to come. The people that win the Slams are the people that work the hardest."

Williams takes her own *aide-memoire* on to court to study at change-overs and the card she carried yesterday included a line from a song by the Jackson Five, although after the match she had forgotten exactly what it was. Maybe "ABC, it's easy as One, Two, Three" would have been appropriate, but whatever piece of Americana it is, the effect on Novotna will be minimal. The Williams sisters talk a good game and Novotna said: "I guess that is the way the young American kids are brought up nowadays, and if that is the way they feel about themselves and their game then that's absolutely fine."

Novotna defeated the peak-capped Romanian Irina Spirlea 6-2, 6-3 and her only irritation was being broken when she served for the match at 5-3. But she took Spirlea's serve in the next game, enjoying a relatively brief encounter on the Centre Court where she has twice been runner-up, feats which may count in her favour when the Wimbledon crowd decides where its emotions lie today.

Martina Hingis started at 11.0 against the Thai Tamarine Tanasugarn, who has been her country's sports personality of the year and carried the Thailand flag at the

opening ceremony for the Olympic Games in Atlanta two years ago, and is thus more than big in Bangkok. For while she gave Hingis a searching examination and the defending champion looked every inch a person who does not like playing too early in the day.

Hingis lost her first service game and was only saved from losing it again in the seventh when the umpire overruled a drive to the baseline by Tanasugarn. Hingis clapped the umpire for that one but the rhythm and consistency came back to her game and she won comfortably 6-3, 6-2.

Aranza Sanchez Vicario has set her own trials at Wimbledon by being behind in each match and the trend continued when she lost the first set to Dominique van Roost. The slender Belgian is one of only 16 players on the tour who is married, and is coached by her husband Bart. The family effort reaped quick rewards for van Roost, but once Sanchez steadied her anxieties by taking the second set the confidence which has flowed since she won the French Championship last month paid increasing dividends. She won 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 and now plays Hingis for the first time on grass.

In the other quarter-finals Lindsay Davenport, the second seed, plays Nathalie Tauziat of France, who beat her at Wimbledon five years ago but has since been beaten seven times head to head, and Natasha Zvereva of Belarus meets Monica Seles who has won each of their four previous matches.

Seven of the quarter-finalists will be catching a familiar breeze. But is Venus Williams about to stir up a storm that she alone truly anticipated?

Court circular

EDITED BY IAN TASKER

No room for xenophobia

IMAGINE AN England/Argentina game with no rioting or shouting of obscenities, in a place where booze flows freely all day and tickets are affordable. If that concept is too much to grasp, a trip down to SW19 yesterday would have made it all perfectly clear.

A mixed doubles match-up between the British pair, Julie Pullin and Danny Sapsford, and the Argentinian duo, Mercedes Paz and Pablo Albano, provided the contest and Court 14 the venue. As a spectator, however, one got the feeling there wasn't quite much history behind this confrontation as that which surrounded the England football team.

In fact, there was so many empty seats that it was hard to detect much more than a vague interest in the air let alone any rated nationalism. There was one person wearing blue and white in the crowd, however, although it has to be said that the garment was gingham and the woman wearing it was more Bexhillian than Argentinian.

The only manifestation of the Hand of God was that the rain stayed away for the whole match but even so the Brits were seen packing 6-1, 7-6. There were no hard feelings, however: everyone clapped the foreigners' skill and success and set about the more serious business of seeking out more strawberries.

Standing ovation on Budge anniversary

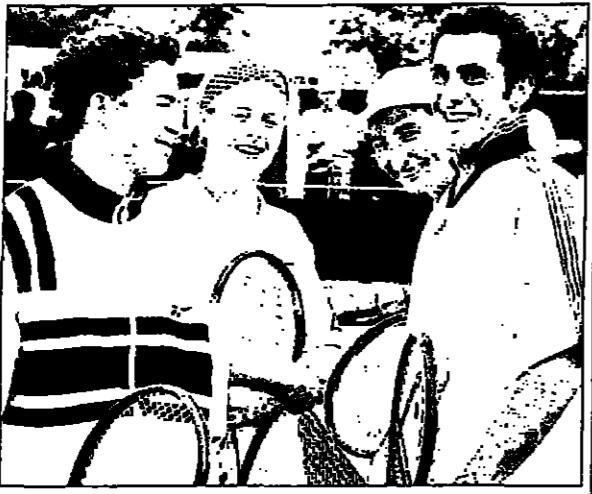
YESTERDAY'S CROWD on Centre Court were invited to celebrate the achievements of a man for whom the phrase "Grand Slam" was invented.

Only three women and two men have ever managed to win all four major tennis tournaments in the same calendar year and in 1938 J Donald Budge made history by becoming the first. Eager to put a name to the Californian's outstanding achievement it was a sportswriter who borrowed the bridge term "Grand Slam", which describes winning all 13 tricks, and applied it to tennis.

Budge was presented with a cut glass vase to commemorate the 60th anniversary of his Wimbledon victory. It was hard to believe that the frail 80-year-old man who waved while receiving a standing ovation was once the greatest player in the world and possessed a backhand remembered with awe.

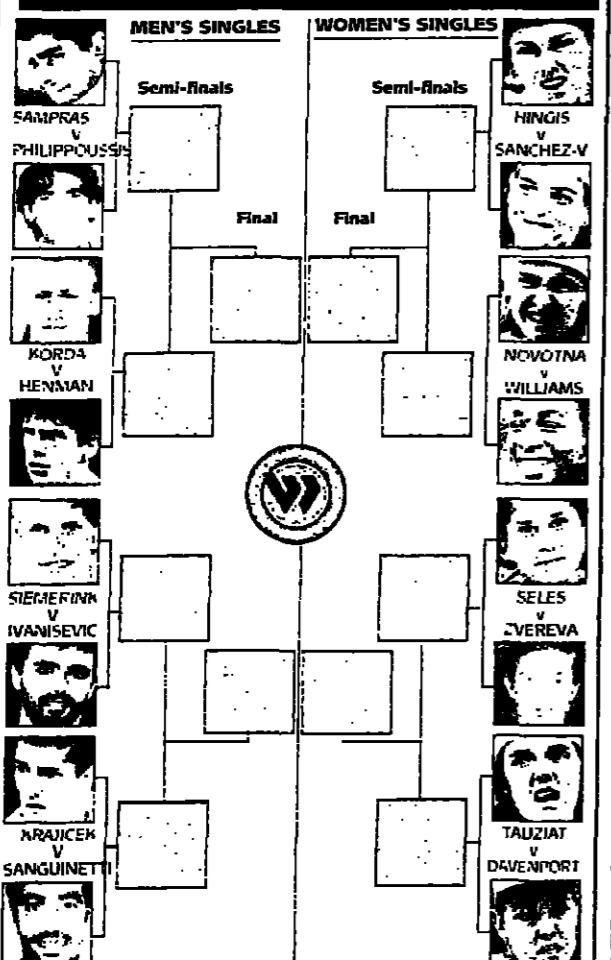
Not only did he not drop a set on his way to the final in 1938, in which he beat Britain's Bunny Austin, but he also became the first man to win the "Triple Crown" by adding the men's and mixed double titles.

Jane Marlow



Britain's Danny Sapsford and Julie Pullin (left) with Mercedes Paz and Pablo Albano before the Argentinian pair's 6-1, 7-6 victory in yesterday's mixed doubles PA

PATH TO THE FINAL



CHAMPIONSHIP STATS

57 number of minutes it took 1992 The year John McEnroe reached the semis as an unseeded player.
7 the number of Frenchmen to win the Wimbledon singles 1977 The year John McEnroe reached the semis as a qualifier.

LATEST ODDS

Men's singles
4-5 Sampras, 12-1 Sapsford, 11-2 Ivanisevic, 10-1 Hingis, 12-1 Semerink, 4-1 Sanguineti
Women's singles
5-6 Hingis, 3-1 Semerink, 8-1 Williams, 9-1 Ivanisevic, 25-1 Sánchez-Vicario, 33-1 Zvereva, 10-1

TODAY'S WEATHER

Bright intervals, chance of thunderstorms. Maximum temperature 19C (66F).



Robert Hallam

Pete Sampras stoops to play a forehand in his straight-sets victory over Sébastien Grosjean, of France, yesterday

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AT WIMBLEDON

MEN'S SINGLES

Holder: P Sampras (Us)

Fourth round

G Ivanisevic (Croat) bt T Martin (Us) 7-6, 3-6, 7-6
P Sanguineti (Ita) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-7, 6-4

J Sánchez-Vicario (Neth) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2

L Davenport (Us) and M Zvereva (Us) bt A.-P. Delmane (Bel) and M Oremans (Neth) 6-7, 6-4

L McNeil (Us) and C Rubin (Us) bt T Krizan and K Srebomil (Sloven) 6-7, 6-2

P Sampras (Us) (1) (Us) bt 5 Grosjean (Fr) 6-3, 6-4

D Sanguineti (Ita) bt F Clavet (Sp) 7-6

J Sánchez-Vicario (Neth) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-4, 6-3

L Davenport (Us) and M Zvereva (Us) (1) (Us) bt A.-P. Delmane (Bel) and M Oremans (Neth) 6-7, 6-4

L McNeil (Us) and C Rubin (Us) bt T Krizan and K Srebomil (Sloven) 6-7, 6-2

P Sampras (Us) and F McNamee (Us) bt 5 Grosjean (Fr) 6-3, 6-4

D Nester (Can) and N Tuzi (Fr) 6-3, 6-4

P Tramech and R Stubbs (Aus) 6-3, 6-4

A Corretja (Spa) and S Telgen (Neth) bt D. Borchers (Bel) and E De Lone (Us) 6-7, 6-3

P Sampras (Us) and L Montalvo (Arg) bt M Gryzlovska (Pol) and T Janus (Tha) 6-7, 6-3

D MacPherson (Us) and B Vines (Us) 6-7, 6-4

J Sánchez-Vicario (Croat) and P Ritter (Us) 6-7, 6-4

G Sánchez-Vicario (Croat) and A. Llona (Spa) 6-7, 6-4

D MacPherson (Us) and R McCullinan (Us) 6-7, 6-4

Y Basuk (Indon) and C M Vis (Neth) bt R Bobola (Cz Rep) and C Schmeder (Ger) 6-3, 6-4

T Vanhoutte (Bel) and D Van Roost (Bel) bt M Frans and R Frawley (Aus) 6-3, 6-2

M Riessen and S Stewart (Us) bt R Frawley (Aus) 6-3, 6-2

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Tote try a Trifecta to attract more punters

BY GREG WOOD

THE ANNUAL £100m or so which Peter Savill promised the racing industry when he took over as chairman of the BHB may indeed materialise in the next few years. Who knows, Desert Orchid might come out of retirement and win the Grand National, too. In the search for a reliable and credible source of extra funding for the sport, though, most sensible observers will point to the untapped potential of the Tote, the only betting operation which hands its profits straight back to racing.

There are still a few utopian souls who cling to the idea of a Tote monopoly in off-course betting, as in many other countries. Back on Planet Earth, however, a more appealing vision is of a Tote which competes aggressively with the major bookies, and that, at least, is a good reason to welcome the announcement yesterday of a new pool bet, the Trifecta.

The bad news is that the Trifecta will replace the Trio, which asked punters to name the first three home in certain races, in any order. Life will now be more difficult, since the Trifecta will demand the correct finishing order, as does the Tri-cast, which is available from the high-street bookmakers.

The important difference, though, will be the transparency with which returns are calculated. Like any pool bet, the Trifecta will be declared to a £1 unit once a deduction (in this case all of 29 per cent) has been made from the pool. The Trifecta, on the other hand, is produced by an obscure mathematical formula with which the bookies cheerfully tinker whenever their percentage is looking thin.

The Tote had a small but enthusiastic following, but this was not enough to save it. Instead, the Tote has been persuaded by the experience of many other countries where the Trifecta, or something very

similar, is often among the most popular bets. These tend to be countries where the Tote is the main, or only, legal way to bet, but as the National Lottery has proved, the prospect of a big return for a small stake is just as attractive to British punters as for those elsewhere.

The Trifecta will also be of-

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Sharp Shuffle
(Brighton 3.00)
NB: Musical Twist
(Brighton 4.00)

fered, initially at least, on just one race each day, which will almost inevitably be one of the designated "Showcase" contests. The first will operate on the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood on 1 August, with a guaranteed pool of at least £100,000 (the last chance for nostalgics to have a tilt at the Tote will be on 16 July).

At a launch for the new bet yesterday, Peter Jones, the Tote

chairman, said that it is designed to "concentrate on two markets, the occasional punter, who wants a large dividend for a small stake, and the more professionally-minded punter, who feels there is a large skill element involved. It is not an easy bet, but there is a pool which must be won and we will be offering more value than the Tri-cast. We expect to beat it three times out of every four."

That is a bold boast, and one which a statistician at Ladbrokes' head office will doubtless be assigned to test if it proves justified, however. The Trifecta will be a significant marketing tool for the Tote, since punters are not nearly as daft as many people suppose them to be. If nothing else, it might finally persuade William Hill to sign up for Tote Direct terminals in their betting shops. To ensure that pools are as large as possible, bookies without the terminals will not be able to accept Trifectas.

The new bet also carries

some interesting long-term possibilities, such as pools which cross national boundaries. As Jones points out, "there could be major international pools for fixtures like the Breeders' Cup or other race series". The possibility of linking two Trifectas together to produce the long-imagined "Superbet" will also be under consideration (although "Superbet" is now a forbidden word at Tote House, where "Saturday Special" is the new preferred description).

This remains the great prize for Jones and his new team at the Tote. Those who do not fall within Jones's "two groups" may steer clear of the Trifecta, although in races where the draw plays a part, it may be a useful alternative to the Tri-cast, which is deliberately skewed against punters in such circumstances. If the new bet can attract enough small-stakes punters, however, the lottery-style Saturday Special could at last be close to becoming a reality.

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Dawson deals in the positive

GIVEN THE choice, few internationals would swap a match-winning try for the Lions in South Africa for a consolation hip-wriggle against an All Black side whose unsportsmanlike response was to disappear over the Auckland hills in a 40-point blaze of ruthlessness attacking rugby. Matt Dawson is different, it seems, much as he enjoyed dummying the Springboks to distraction at Newlands a year ago. England's tour captain would far rather discuss the here and now, even if he has spent much of the last five weeks in a sea of you know what.

Back at the precise scene of last year's famous flash of virtuoso scrum-half opportunism, the 25-year-old pride of Northampton refuses to entertain even the merest whiff of nostalgia. "The Lions tour was wonderful, but an entirely different proposition to the one England face this weekend. Being here in Cape Town brings back memories, of course, not just of that try but of the whole Lions experience and in terms of personal preparation for Saturday's Test, I'll at least attempt to rediscover the things I got right last time. But I'm not here to dwell on the Lions. I'm far more interested in the positives we took from last week's game at Eden Park."

One of which was his first-half try, a high-class finish more than a little reminiscent of Joost van der Westhuizen, his likely opponent on Saturday.

England's scrum-half, an admirable scrapper, is searching for the key to consistency in England's makeshift team. By Chris Hewett in Cape Town

But in Dawson's case, the positives were positively legion. His revelatory form, both as a half-back and a leader, has been a bonus of considerable significance for Clive Woodward, the England coach, and is likely to make the selection process for this autumn's home internationals at Twickenham and Twickenham rather more complicated than it might have been. Indeed, Woodward must be hoping that the early stages of next season's Premiership clarifies one or two issues because, at the moment, he is facing the rugby equivalent of Fermat's "Last Theorem".

Who should wear the No 9 shirt when England embark on their World Cup qualifiers with Italy and the Netherlands before renewing hostilities with the Springboks and Wallabies?

Kyran Bracken was last season's first-choice and he performed capably enough; indeed, his range of scrum-half skills remains a degree or two wider than his rival's. But then, Dawson is here in the trenches of the southern hemisphere, dodging the heavy artillery and firing a few bullets of his own. Woodward asked for his loyalty and received it in spades. Natural justice demands some loyalty in return.

The captaincy issue is not quite so complex, for Lawrence Dallaglio remains one of the most virile incarnations of rugby's warrior spirit. All the same, Dallaglio's absence from this tour has cost him some of his golden-boy sheen, and it would not take too many ill-judged comments, let alone a run of dodgy form, to send Woodward scurrying straight back to the ultra-dependable Dawson.

Not that the admirably single-minded incumbent is wasting too much mental energy on vague calculations of the ifs and maybes of the game; the Springboks - big, strong and nastier than most - loom large on the immediate horizon. "They'll be more direct than the All Blacks, powerful and up-front and in our faces. They have new players in their side and those players want to impress in advance of the Tri-Nations and, further on, the World Cup. That means they'll be looking to put in the big hits that Dawson is on a roll, it takes more than Taine Randell, Andrew Mehrtens and Christian Cullen to knock the door to the try line. Gary Teichmann, the Springbok captain, found that out a year ago. Who can say for sure that lightning will not pay a return visit to Newlands this weekend?"

demonstrated what could be achieved by matching them physically. The trick for this England side is to work out how to put it together for the full 80 rather than do the right things only in 20-minute spells.

"If I knew the answer to that little conundrum, I'd be a millionaire. In the first Test with the Blacks, we played really well for the first and last quarters but conceded shoddy before and after the interval. In the second Test, we leaked points early and late but stayed with them in the central periods of the contest. We have to learn the art and science of total concentration, to stick to the game plan irrespective of what's happening on the scoreboard. I'm confident we can do that because we are a quick-learning side. I don't want to see us make mistakes but if errors do occur, it's important that we keep learning from them."

England have learned an awful lot from the carnage inflicted upon them in the course of this tour and in turn the southern hemisphere has picked up one or two nuggets of information about the visiting captain. The All Blacks, for instance, discovered that when Dawson is on a roll, it takes more than Taine Randell, Andrew Mehrtens and Christian Cullen to knock the door to the try line. Gary Teichmann, the Springbok captain, found that out a year ago. Who can say for sure that lightning will not pay a return visit to Newlands this weekend?



Matt Dawson: 'South Africa will be more direct than the All Blacks, powerful, up-front and in our faces' *Empics*

Woodward hits out at tour organisers

By CHRIS HEWETT

CLIVE WOODWARD, the England coach, yesterday confirmed that he would not send a full-strength World Cup side to Australia for next summer's Cook Cup match, even if the fixture is confirmed against his wishes.

"This tour has been bad enough from the logistics point of view - the New Zealanders won't play a Test here in South Africa without a full 12 days of preparation. Let alone three and a bit - and I'm not interested in travelling half-way round the world for a game I don't want during the build-up to the World Cup," he said as England arrived in Cape Town where they face the Springboks on Saturday.

"The people who put these schedules in place aren't the ones who have to play the games. I wish they would front up and face a press conference now and again, just to explain the thinking behind flying thousands of miles to play Tests against the best sides on the planet without a warm-up match or a proper build-up. If England have to go to Australia next summer fine. All I'm saying is that the World Cup guys won't be on the trip."

Meanwhile, there is the tale of two wings. Contrary to the general thrust of medical opinion, England's Austin Healey may yet recover from the shoulder dislocation he suffered against New Zealand five days ago and play against the Springboks. That is not the half of it; some doctors, especially those who practise down Western Province way, will be more astonished still if Chester Williams, the Rainbow Nation symbol of South Africa's 1995 World Cup-winning side, completes a wholly unexpected Test rehabilitation at Newlands.

Williams last wore the green

jersey at Twickenham two and a half years ago before disappearing under an avalanche of injury problems.

He is, however, back in the squad as cover for the new wing sensation, Stefan Terblanche, who pranged himself in the course of ravaging the Welsh last Saturday. Springbok sources say Williams, a superb operator in his pomp, is 80 per cent certain to win a place on the bench and a better than even bet to get a run at some point in the England proceedings.

Both sides were scheduled to confirm their line-ups this afternoon and while England have lost the services of Tom Beirn, the Sale wing whose shoulder dislocation at the hands of Jonah Lomu was rather more serious than that suffered by Healey, they are hopeful of an appearance from Garath Archer, the Newcastle lock who missed the Eden Park Test with ankle problems.

The 30-year-old Argentinian lock German Llanes has been released from him from the final 12 months of his contract with Bath. The 6ft 6in 20st Llanes, who played just eight times for the club last season, said: "I had some problems and that is why I was not getting selected."

TODAY'S NUMBER

24

The number, in millions, of German viewers who watched their team beat Mexico 2-1 in the World Cup second round. The figure represents a market share of 85.8 per cent, according to the ZDF, the public broadcasting channel

KEMPTON

HYPERION
6.40 Winca 7.10 Verne 7.40 Tadwiga 8.10 Future Perfect 6.40 Smooth Sailing 9.10 Court Shareef

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places); Penetrator 4A.

STALLS: Far side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for St 6 and 8.

■ COURSE: Right-hand course. Separate straight course for St 5 and 8 races. Practically flat. Run-in of 200yd.

■ COURSE: On A308 at Sunbury. Kempton Park railway station adjoins course. Admission: Club £25, Juniors (16 to 25-year-olds) £12; Grandstand £10; Silver Ring £5. Accompanied children under 16 free. CAR PARK: Members £2; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hanmer 31 winners from 249 runners (success rate 12.4%). St 6: St 8: 17-82 (65%). J. Dutton 15-17 (22%). H. Clegg 13-61 (21%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery 40 wins from 185 rides (success rate 20.5%). C. Dabtor 29-17 (15.9%). T. Quillan 23-227 (12.5%). L. Dabtor 18-14 (16%).

■ FAVOURITES: 143 wins in 575 races (31%).

■ VISORED FIRST-TIME: Palais (30%).

6.40 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS SKY D) £25,000 flat 2YO 7f

1 BELLA LOUPA (20) R. Hanmer 8.11 ... Done O'Neill 2 ... W. R. Swindells 3 ...

2 600 FREE (19) H. Clegg 5.11 ... T. Clegg 1 ...

3 600 FREE (19) H. Clegg 5.11 ... T. Clegg 1 ...

4 LALIA MANIA (20) C. Dabtor 4 ...

5 SALSATRIA (20) H. Clegg 5.11 ... Pat Eddery 4 ...

6 3 WINDY GULCH (20) H. Clegg 5.11 ... K. Fallon 7 ...

7 3 WINDY GULCH (20) H. Clegg 5.11 ... K. Fallon 7 ...

BETTING: 114 Wins, 9.2 Better Shareef, 114 Family Tree, 6.1 Bon Free, 10.1 Bella Loupa, 10.1 Mania, 12.1 Salsatria

BETTING: 114 Wins, 9.2 Better Shareef, 114 Family Tree, 6.1 Bon Free, 10.1 Bella Loupa, 10.1 Mania, 12.1 Salsatria

YARMOUTH

HYPERION

6.25 Kadaka 6.55 Mrs Middle 7.25 Bon Stzie 7.55 Gymcrak Flyer (nb) 8.25 Serpentine 8.55 Benjamin Frank

GOING: Good.

STALLS: Straight course - stables side; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for St 7 and 9.

■ LEFT-HAND COURSE - stables and far.

■ COURSE: As N of junction on A148. Station 1m. ADMISSION: Club £12; Ladies £10; Seniors £5; Families £15. Accompanied children under 16 free. CAR PARK: £1.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: H. Clegg 22 winners from 83 runners (success rate 26.7%). M. Ball 14-78 (16%). L. Curzon 12-62 (21%). J. Farnham 12-78 (15.9%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: R. Hill 32 wins from 139 rides (success rate 22.9%). W. Ryan 18-12 (22%). A. McGlone 9-64 (14%). D. Hodge 6-67 (34%).

■ FAVOURITES: 210 wins in 575 races (36.3%).

■ BLINDED FIRST-TIME: Almoech (155, visored), Bon Stzie (225, visored), Ben Stzie (225).

■ BETTING: 15-8 Dalton, 2-1 Kadaka, 5-1 Misleading Lady, 10-1 Agincourt, 12-1 Triple High, Allgood, 25-1 The Rat, Royal Alibi, 12-1 The Rat.

6.25 ACLE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 3f 101yds

1 AGINCOURT (20) H. Clegg 4.10 ... M. Ball 3 ... W. J. O'Connor 3 ... D. O'Donnell 1 ...

2 ROYAL ALIBI (20) H. Clegg 4.10 ... M. Ball 3 ... D. O'Donnell 1 ...

3 THE RAT (18) A. McGlone 3.10 ...

4 50 TRIPLE HIGH (20) C. Hodge 4.15 ... R. Hill 2 ...

5 680 ALLGOOD (20) H. Clegg 3.12 ... W. Ryan 7 ...

6 643 DORION (20) H. Clegg 3.12 ... R. Hill 2 ...

7 4 KADAKA (20) L. Curzon 3.17 ... R. Lynch 5 ...

8 0 MISLEADING LADY (20) St 5: St 8: 3.67 ... R. Lynch 5 ...

9 8 - declaimed -

BETTING: 15-8 Dalton, 2-1 Kadaka, 5-1 Misleading Lady, 10-1 Agincourt, 12-1 Triple High, Allgood, 25-1 The Rat, Royal Alibi, 12-1 The Rat.

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Fifa's second booking for Sir Bobby

BY TREVOR HAYLETT

SIR BOBBY Charlton, ambassador for English football and representative of all things good about the game, did not expect that a day which brought England and Argentina face-to-face again would also alert the world to his booking in the same fixture 32 years before.

It is generally assumed the Manchester United star went

through his entire career with just a single booking to his illustrious name. Even that caution, in a Charity Shield game with Tottenham at Wembley in 1967, did not really count as the referee decided not to record it with the authorities.

However Fifa – in a discussion about red and yellow cards – made it known yesterday that Charlton had been booked in the infamous 1966 World Cup quarter-final be-

tween England and Argentina. According to Fifa, Sir Bobby had asked them last year to check their records because although he thought he had been booked in the game he was not 100 per cent sure.

"We went into our archives and found the match report showing that Bobby had indeed been booked although he hadn't realised it at the time," the Fifa spokesman, Keith Cooper, said.

"There was terrible confusion between the Argentine and English players and the German referee. People didn't speak each other's languages in those days. I think Bobby was trying to play the peacemaker and his intervention was misunderstood."

When the *Independent* caught up with Sir Bobby on his car phone on his way to last night's game in St Etienne he expressed surprise that a fuss

had blown up over the incident.

"It was a misunderstanding really," he said. "There was a lot of pushing and shoving in the goalmouth involving my brother Jack, and I was only trying to calm people down. It was a very intense match and feelings were running high."

"The only other time I was booked was for not taking a free-kick quickly enough. I don't suppose two bookings in a career is too bad – players cer-

tainly wouldn't be able to get away with it today."

It was after that explosive '66 game that Fifa introduced yellow and red cards to make it clear to players that they had been booked. Ken Aston, the English Fifa official, who had come on to the field to help restore order during the rumpus over the dismissal of the Argentine captain Antonio Rattin, was travelling away from Wembley Stadium when he stopped

at traffic lights and hit upon his idea.

"There had been problems in that game because the referee was German, the players were Argentine and English and nobody could communicate," Cooper added.

"There was a need for a universal symbolism that would be understood by all and it was while waiting in the traffic lights that Ken hit on the idea of using red and yellow."



DIARY

EVEN THOSE who can't immediately identify what unique qualities Rob Lee brings to the England squad must acknowledge that in fitness terms he is certainly not bottom of the class. However, we may have to think again after Glenn Hoddle explained that the Newcastle midfielder and David Beckham missed training on Monday because "they are a bit tired after the previous matches". Lee's World Cup involvement before last night's game: precisely 11 minutes against Colombia.

The "Hand of God" has a presence at this World Cup beyond last night's encounter between Argentina and England. The Italian priest who held Sunday mass in Italy's chateau retreat at Gouviex, north of Paris, thanked the great custodian in the sky for his part in the amazing save made by Gianluca Pagliuca to deny the Chelsea striker Tore Andre Flo a headed equaliser, thus safeguarding Italy's single-goal lead in their second-round tie with Norway last weekend.

Supporters have been warned that watching their country perform at the World Cup can prove a health hazard. A specialist in the Italian city of Florence has discovered that he is treating more patients with stomach complaints every time Florentina suffer defeat. Doctor Bonanomi, who specialises in gastroenterology at Florence's Careggi Hospital, checked the team's fixture list and their results and discovered a marked increase in the development of stomach ulcers when they lost. Dr Bonanomi told BBC's *Tomorrow's World* programme: "This could be a bad problem for those fans who suffer from chronic stomach disorders. The game can be a very stressful event. Anticipating the result of the match can be so stressful that it can cause a great deal of pain."

The sound accompaniments to this World Cup are not to everyone's taste. Loud electronic music is played in the stadiums every time a goal is scored and those who object are asked to forward complaints to Michel Platini, the head of the organising committee and a legendary former French captain. "It's a personal choice of Michel Platini," said a Fifa spokesman, Keith Cooper. "Some people like it, some don't, but it's one of those things that once you've started, you can't stop."

Meanwhile in the England dressing room a scowl envelops Alan Shearer every time the music is turned on as part of the team's pre-match motivational routine. "Don't ask me what it is – it's garbage," said the England captain when quizzed about the thumping sounds. "It's rap music or something like it." Squad member Rio Ferdinand, a 19-year-old and decidedly quick on his feet whether it be at Upton Park or on the dance floor, is taking the blame for the choice of tunes.

Compiled by Trevor Haylett

Everton
enter the
bidding
for Smith

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

WALTER SMITH is in the middle of a tug-of-war after Everton joined Sheffield Wednesday in offering him a job as manager yesterday.

The former Rangers manager was approached by the Everton chairman Peter Johnson and invited to take over from Howard Kendall, obliging the Hillsborough club to cancel a press conference scheduled to unveil Smith as the successor to Ron Atkinson.

Smith has asked for 48 hours to weigh up his options and is taking soundings on the relative merits of the two Premier League clubs. His sudden availability initially sparked interest from Wednesday, who thought he had secured his services after days of talks.

However Everton turned to Smith yesterday, attracted by his ready-made status and the lack of compensation to his previous club. Johnson is under pressure to find the solution quickly and Smith seems heaven-sent.

Martin O'Neill and Brian Kidd have turned down the opportunity, while Barnsley will not let Everton speak to Danny Wilson. In an even more bizarre twist, Diego Maradona has offered his services through a British intermediary but was politely rebuffed.

Newcastle's Kenny Dalglish is trying to sign the Frenchman Laurent Charvet, who went home after a spell on loan with Chelsea. He hopes to seal an £800,000 deal for the Cannes midfielder this week.

Leeds United's manager, George Graham, hopes to sign the Port Vale winger, Gareth Ainsworth, for £1.5m. Graham has tabled his offer for Ainsworth, a right winger, who was Vale's record buy when he arrived last season.

Swansea City have parted company with their manager, Alan Cork, after a difference of opinion over the former Wimbledon player's "style of management".

Cork, 39, an FA Cup winner with the Dons in 1988, took over at the Vetch Field during a turbulent last season, which began with Jan Molby in charge and included a 13-day spell with Ricky Adams at the helm. Swansea finished 20th in the Third Division.

The club's chairman, Steve Harmer, said: "Next season is such a vital one for the club, with preparation under way for a move to a new (35,000-seat) stadium in 1999, the board has decided to make the change now, before the players report back on Thursday, rather than wait until the new campaign has started."

West Ham's Welsh striker John Hartson has extended his contract at Upton Park until the year 2005. The 23-year-old international, who was the second-highest scorer in the Premiership last season with 24 goals in all competitions, has signed a three-year extension to his current deal with the Hammers.

Hartson became West Ham's record signing when he joined them from Arsenal for £3.5m in February 1997.

Tawdry world of ticket touting

The names of corporate sponsors appear on the black market roll of dishonour. By Nick Harling in Paris

WHOEVER SAID that the English are an indolent, insular race with no desire to learn foreign languages? The evidence to the contrary, is there on the Champs-Elysées. "Je cherche des billets," reads one sign. "Billets a vendre," says another. Never mind that the grave accent on the "a" is missing.

Some Englishman has obviously taken the trouble to translate a few essential French words. But this is a tawdry, almost pathetic scene masquerading as a daily market place along the most famous avenue in Paris.

There among the lunchtime diners, spilling their *escargot*, devouring their *mignon de porc roti* and quaffing the best *vin rouge* are a knot of spivs off-loading World Cup tickets at inflated prices. Nearly all of them are English. It is a sad reflection on our countrymen, especially when you consider their lack of respect for the hosts.

"Pigs, they're all pigs," snarled one, frustrated by his lack of a decent, recent sale.

If they are pigs, I thought, viewing all the elegantly dressed and perfumed women, the sophisticated men in their designer jackets, what does that make you?

Another tout, a slob, midriff bulging under his tight T-shirt, regarded us with a tale of his visit to Lens where he had made the mistake of conducting a deal with a group of Moroccans in his BMW. They ambushed him, holding a knife to his throat, relieving him of 2,100 francs and his tickets. It couldn't have happened to a nicer bloke. I mused, not daring to voice my thoughts.

What Parisians make of this despicable section of society, which, it must be said, belongs not entirely to us, is anyone's

guess. It is much easier to ascertain how these individuals acquired their tickets in the first place.

Like Wimbledon, like Glyndebourne and the Opera House, corporate entertainment has a lot to answer for. Vast conglomerates whose employees have no love of football – or would go to games merely for appearances – must have parted with thousands of tickets to the black market.

Likewise, travel agents, particularly those whose teams have ended up at unexpected venues. They should consider, perhaps, that short-sighted gains invariably end up with long-term consequences.

Neither are the sponsors blameless. When I enquired as to the original source of England's tickets for last night's game being flogged at 3,000 francs each by an American outside the Stade de France the other evening, he took a look at the small print and said: "Mastercard." The name of Manpower, another sponsor, is also apparently on thousands of tickets in the hands of touts. It is bad enough seeing unsavoury looking Englishmen exploiting the true fans. But Americans? Fans denied tickets must frequently ask themselves in anger why these scammers, as they are known back home, cannot stick to the sports they are good at, like American football or baseball. The saving grace for the one I encountered was that he didn't send me on my way with "Have a nice day."

The hotline was a recipe for tickets getting in the wrong hands. Thousands of Frenchmen with easier access to the magic number purchased tickets which, in most cases, they

had no intention of using themselves. Instead they sold them off at twice or three times the cost price.

Even though France are only the second country to stage the World Cup twice, the suspicion lingers that football will never bring this country to a standstill. When France are playing the bars are far from packed and French games remain among the cheapest to at-

tend. If they do attend, the average Frenchman, one feels, would rather be initiating a Mexican wave than waxing lyrical over a divine move or identifying the best foreign players. So why bother to go at all? Why not stick to boules and bicycling. So they do and they cash in by selling their World Cup tickets to foreigners stupid enough to pay exorbitant prices.

If only more fans could follow the example of a friend of mine who is promising to send all his stubs to Fifa for examination. Another remedy might be found by Japan, whose hordes of supporters are still travelling up and down the country although their own team has long since been eliminated. Judging by the noises they are making, the Japanese will not make the same mistake as France when they act as co-hosts in four years time. They want to sell only to the genuine fans.

The distressing sight of so many of their fans let down by the collapse of Portland Travel, has convinced Japan that they will get it right – or rather – in 2002. For, like the world's oldest profession, the second oldest will never completely go away.

Denis Doyle/AP



A 300F ticket for Saturday's Brazil against Chile game at the Parc des Princes in Paris changes hands for 10 times its face value

Simon Wilkinson/EMPICS

NICHOLAS HARLING'S TICKET TOUR DE FRANCE	
10 Jun Brazil v Scotland 650fr (500fr face value)	Friend's friend was late
11 Jun Italy v Chile 325fr	Swapped it against his Italy v Cameroon ticket
12 Jun Bulgaria v Paraguay 200fr (150fr)	Prices dropped drastically before kick-off
13 Jun Mexico v South Korea 500fr	Bought it from woman just before kick-off
14 Jun Japan v Argentina 7,000fr	First failure
15 Jun England v Tunisia 500fr	Bought it from a woman selling a 350fr ticket
16 Jun Scotland v Norway 100fr (1500fr)	Did not buy the ticket
17 Jun Italy v Cameroon 750fr	Got price down from 800fr five minutes before kick-off
18 Jun South Africa v Denmark 100fr	Mormon missionaries from Utah
19 Jun Nigeria v Bulgaria 400fr	A few minutes before the start
20 Jun Japan v Croatia 100fr	Accosted by an Italian gangster
21 Jun Argentina v Jamaica 325fr	Bought off a Jamaican fan
22 Jun England v Romania 145fr	Bought from Belgian contact
23 Jun Italy v Austria 325fr	Tout – prices went down just before kick-off
24 Jun Spain v Bulgaria 455fr	Tout at Lens station 70 minutes before kick-off
25 Jun Belgium v South Korea 145fr	Nigerian wife of Belgian friend
26 Jun England v Colombia 250fr	Failure: Refused to pay 5,000fr
26 Jun Japan v Jamaica 250fr	exchanged a spare 500fr Netherlands v Yugoslavia ticket for a 350fr offered by a Japanese

Meanwhile in the England dressing room a scowl envelops Alan Shearer every time the music is turned on as part of the team's pre-match motivational routine. "Don't ask me what it is – it's garbage," said the England captain when quizzed about the thumping sounds. "It's rap music or something like it." Squad member Rio Ferdinand, a 19-year-old and decidedly quick on his feet whether it be at Upton Park or on the dance floor, is taking the blame for the choice of tunes.

Compiled by Trevor Haylett

Beckham scores highest in the pay stakes

DAVID BECKHAM is England's top earning footballer according to a report published this week. The 23-year-old Manchester United midfielder, who scored with a stunning free-kick against Colombia last Friday, is paid even more than the England captain, Alan Shearer, according to *BusinessAge* magazine.

The magazine's poll of the world's top 25 football earners

figures, said *BusinessAge* in its survey.

Shearer's princely sum comes from various advertising deals with the likes of Lucozade, Braun and McDonald's. He also recently signed a 14-year deal worth £25m with Manchester-based sportswear manufacturer Umbro. The England duo, who finished 9th and 10th respectively in the poll, are still way off the top players who fill the top four places.

Second-placed Denilson,

who is currently struggling to command a place in the Brazilian team, insured his left foot for £1m last year.

Shearer's opposite number in last night's deciding game, Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta, came 15th with a total of £3.25m.

International footballers' performances in the World Cup could have a great deal of impact on future earnings, with the prospect of summer transfers and lucrative advertising deals.

THE GLOBAL GAME

THE WORLD CUP AROUND THE WORLD

"Rowdy in victory, Mexicans were somewhat subdued in defeat after the national team were eliminated from the World Cup with a 2-1 loss to Germany. Although police said two people were seriously injured in a firecracker explosion, dozens more suffered minor injuries and 53 people were arrested, the crowds in Mexico City were much tamer than the bottle-throwing mob that turned out after Mexico's previous World Cup matches. More than 10,000 people watched the game on a giant screen television in the city's main plaza, the Zocalo. President Ernesto Zedillo called the team after the game to offer his personal congratulations for their brave efforts." *"El Universal", Mexico City*.

"Germany have more lives than a cat, and if there are seven they'll just last until the final. It's the same story in every World Cup. The fans, the critics, the high opinion of themselves, but they keep sending their rivals to a football mortuary, mercilessly tearing them apart as if putting them under a fatalistic curse." *"El País", Madrid*.

The magazine's poll of the world's top 25 football earners

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Suker makes the difference

BY PETER LANSLEY
at Stade Lescure, Bordeaux

Croatia 1
Suker pen 45
Romania 0
Att: 34,700

IF YOU accept the myth that sport is about settling old scores, then, on the day England were seeking revenge for old wounds inflicted by Argentina, Croatia earned themselves the opportunity to avenge disappointment in Euro 96 when they booked a quarter-final date with Germany courtesy of Davor Suker's latest instance of composed finishing.

It was in England two years ago that Croatia's first appearance on the stage of international tournaments ended in a last-eight defeat by Germany. Now a little-changed team, strengthened by experience, appear to have an improved opportunity against the reigning European champions in Lyons on Saturday. Croatia certainly possess ingenuity in midfield, in the shape of Zvonimir Boban and Aljosa Asanovic, in addition to Suker, a striker of genuine class.

Suker was obliged to net twice before he was credited with his one goal, in first half injury-time, that ultimately and deservedly gave Croatia victory. Gabriel Popescu was adjudged to have fouled Asanovic and only after a long pause did the referee's whistle sanction Suker's spot-kick opportunity.

This he put away, to the goalkeeper's left, with aplomb. But an encroachment undermined his good work and time seemed to stand still before the Real Madrid player, blowing out his cheeks, ran back up to strike the ball with increased ferocity into the same corner. It was his third goal in four games in France '98 and his 32nd in 38 internationals.

Perhaps Romania's first round hair-cut trading worked against them. The deal was that

Angeli Iordanescu would shave his head if the team all dyed their hair. Sure enough, Romania's coach had kept to his side of the bargain by having a skinhead crop, albeit hidden away underneath a cap, but perhaps his team's uniform blond ruse served to undermine their performance.

Romania sacrificed their playmaking captain, Gheorghe Hagi, early in the second period. It was a sad farewell after 114 caps for his country. But even in the early stages the Galatasaray midfielder was chasing shadows when his opposite number, Boban, turned him to centre long for Suker to side-foot back into the path of Asanovic. The former Derby County player volleyed straight at Bogdan Stoele.

Before Romania started pressing in the final 20 minutes, when Croatia were content to defend deeply, Iordanescu's side showed a bewitching lack of urgency. Only when Adrian Ilie turned up the throttle to reach Gabriel Popescu's pass eight minutes before the break, lobbing diffidently into Drazan Ladic's hands, did they look like breaking through.

Croatia really should have given themselves an easier finish. Nine minutes into the second period, Suker lengthened his stride to volley back from beyond the far post Mario Stanic's excellent long centre. But Liviu Ciobatu got in before Boban to clear for a corner.

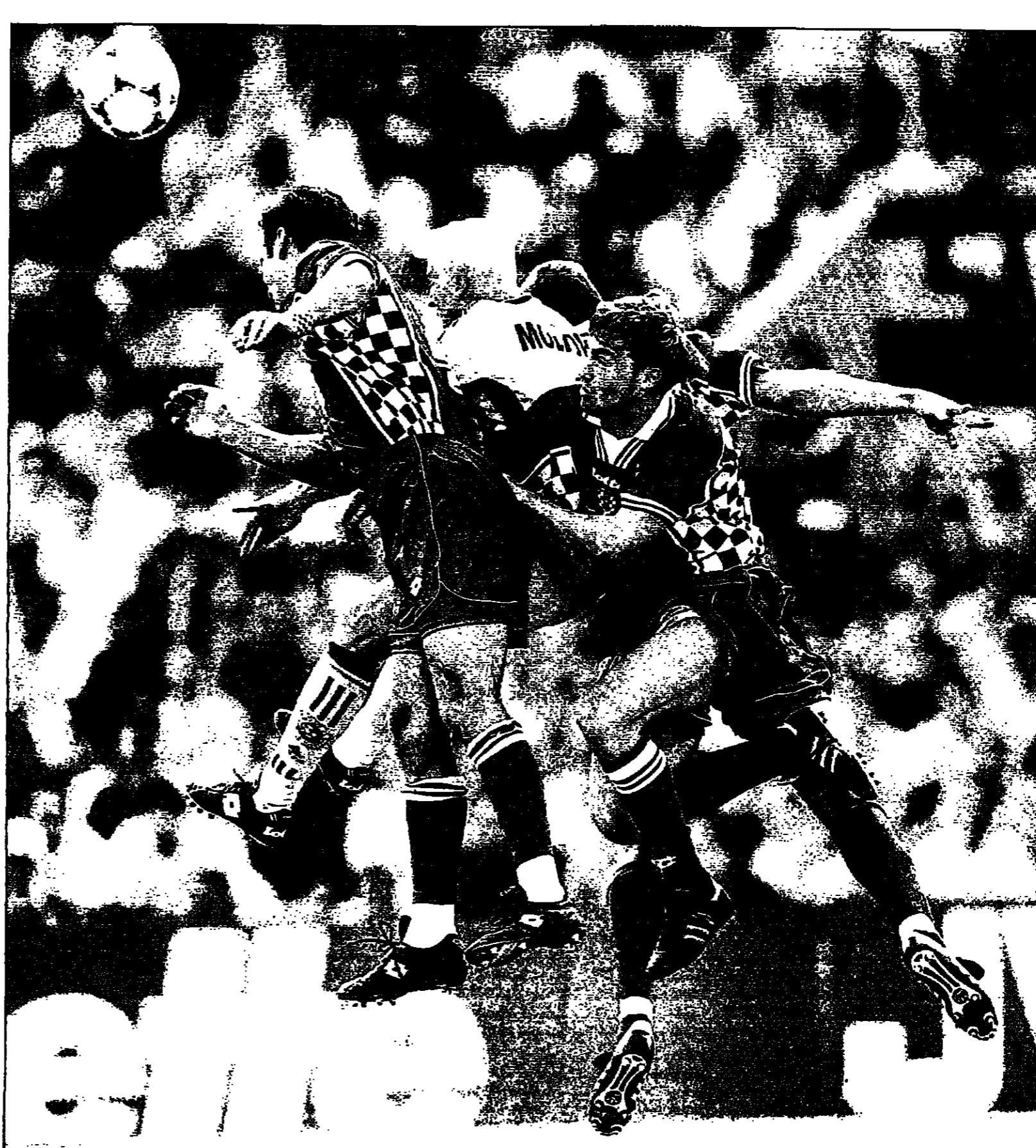
Then Suker's pace took him away from the despairing challenge of Gheorghe Popescu, but perhaps the striker's one failing is wanting the ball on his left foot every time. From the right corner of the penalty area, Stoele saved with his legs.

Romania's subsequent attacking efforts always lacked the penetration that a proven world-class striker can bring. It's disappointing on this occasion. Iordanescu, continuing the trend of this World Cup, now leaves his post to take charge of Greece.

Croatia's mounting challenge is gaining worldwide credibility and received the support, in spirit if not in body, of compatriot Goran Ivanisevic, who was able to complete his latest Wimbledon victory in time to watch the second half.

ROMANIA (3-1-2): Stoele (Romanian), Popescu (Galatasaray), Popescu (Galatasaray), Blazevic (Cologne), Hagi (Galatasaray), Ciobatu (Valencia), Sebastian Cristescu (Real Sociedad) for Nagy, Stoenescu (Romanian), Popescu (Galatasaray), 60 mins Stanic (Rapid Bucharest) for Petrescu, 75.

CROATIA (3-5-2): Ladic (Spartak Zagreb), Stojanovic (Derby), Blizic (Everton), Stanic (Parma), Boban (Croatia Zagreb), Asanovic (Real Madrid), Subotic (Krasnodar), Salter (Real Madrid), Subotic (Krasnodar), Krunic (Olympique Lyonnais), 76. Radoncic (Spartak Zagreb), 82. Radoncic (Augsburg).



Romania's Viorel Moldovan finds himself outnumbered by Croatian defenders at Parc Lescure yesterday

Michael Steele/Empics

Petit is injury worry for France

THE ARSENAL midfielder Emmanuel Petit may be forced out of France's quarter-final against Italy in St Denis on Friday after admitting he has been hitting a nagging thigh injury.

"I have had a slight problem for some time, but the hard pitches have exaggerated it," Petit said. He was substituted in the 70th minute of Sunday's second-round game against Paraguay after the pain became too much.

"I knew I had trouble before the match. I could not even walk up the stairs without it hurting but I did not tell anyone about it," Petit added. "I am hoping that with a massage it will quickly improve."

Petit is not the only injury problem facing the French coach, Aimé Jacquet, to await doctor's reports before finalising his team. Christophe Dugarry, who was injured in France's opening match of the World Cup, has still not fully recovered, although he has resumed training.

Also on the wounded list is Thierry Henry. A squad spokesman said: "Henry has a sprain of the left ankle and is undergoing intensive treatment."

Italy's Christian Vieri, the top scorer at the finals, suffered an injury scare in a training session yesterday.

Vieri, who has scored five goals so far, quit training after 20 minutes with a suspected leg strain. The team doctor, Andrea Ferretti, tried to play down the injury scare, saying: "It's not serious but there's no point in taking any risks."

The Dutch defender Michael Reiziger may be out of the quarter-finals with a broken bone in his foot. He was injured in the first half of Monday's 2-1 win over Yugoslavia but played on until the end. The Dutch coach, Guus Hiddink, was last night waiting for X-ray results. He said: "I hope nothing is broken - but I fear the worst."

Saudi Arabia, who dismissed their coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira, after their failure to survive the first round, have replaced the experienced Brazilian with Otto Pfister. It is the German's second spell in charge of the Saudis.

Borges was left out partly because he was dead

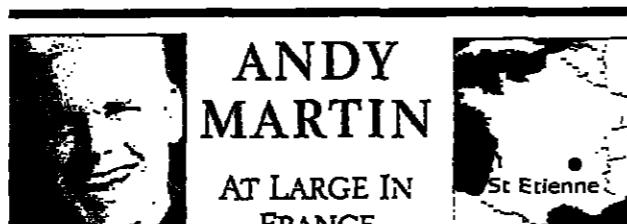
WE WERE robbed. Argentina 5, England 1. But it was all a fix and I demand a replay.

I'm talking, of course, of the literary confrontation that took place at the elegant *Le Grillon* on rue Gambetta, three o'clock kick-off. The Argentines had five texts to our one. That one was Shakespeare, though an extract from *The Tempest*, so we scored in terms of sheer quality.

Jacques Plaine, one of the organisers of the "cafés littéraires" events - intended to exhibit the more intellectual side to St Etienne - was apologetic. "It's just that we knew there was not only Argentina, but Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Spain. So we prepared for Spanish. We even had Japanese ready, but we weren't prepared for England to get through this far. So it was a rush job."

I'm not sure his explanation didn't make things worse. Apparently the Paraguayan ambassador came to an earlier event and read one of his own efforts; if the English ambassador had been at *Le Grillon* it would have been a diplomatic incident at the very least.

The Argentines kicked off to the strain of a tango being played on the accordion. They were stylish but lacking in substance. Julio Cortazar was up front, tackling the elusive subject of climbing up a staircase. There were occasional flashes of Samuel Beckett and a hint of



the nouveau roman in his performance, but he laboured hard for little effect.

There was some foul play on their side from none other (I think) than Eva Peron, so-called "Madonna of the Poor", who weaved about the theme of a bordello in Buenos Aires, pulling several shirts right off. But there is no doubt Argentina were badly missing Jorge Luis Borges, left out partly, no doubt, on account of being dead, but still far and away their best player. His funny story (written, if memory serves, under the name of Bustos Domecq) in which a detective hunts a suspect down to a "football stadium" only to discover that it is in fact a television studio, taking football matches to push up audience figures, would have fitted in perfectly.

The subdued crowd consisted of a trio of English journalists, Silvia, an Argentine woman studying chemical engineering at the School of Mining who said, no, she would not be going to the match, and an awful lot of Jean-Jacques had also hosted another grudge match earlier in the tournament between Iran and Yugoslavia. "The Iranians had a protocol problem," he complained. Before participating they insisted on (a) no

French literary types. As one of the more obscure Argentines, completely off-form, was being translated into French, five hearty England fans marched in.

"Bonjour," said one. "Is that right you've got tickets here?" We heard a rumour at the market that this is the place for tickets.

The patron, Jean-Jacques Ovignan, hustled them off into a back room. Apparently the city of St Etienne had bought up several thousand tickets to be distributed to schools and colleges, but those fans, to mention only five, did not believe that story, and were ready to crack a deal.

"It is impossible to cheat," Jean-Jacques assured me, not entirely convincingly. The Brits did not emerge again. Whether they managed to dig out a ticket or were sent away with a sonnet in their ear I never found out.

Jean-Jacques had also hosted another grudge match earlier in the tournament between Iran and Yugoslavia. "The Iranians had a protocol problem," he complained. Before participating they insisted on (a) no

women and (b) no alcohol. "This is not reasonable. In another country, you must adapt." At a Scottish-Morocco meeting, the Scots insisted on singing, but at least there was no objection to alcohol.

The shock of the afternoon, though, was the inclusion of François de Cornière, particularly since he is neither Argentine nor English but a poet from Caen who has recently published *La Surface de réparation* ("Penalty Area"). Unlike every other writer all afternoon, he actually had something to say about football.

An English professor from the Jean Monnet University, M. Roux, like Alan Bennett with a moustache, delivered his wry, ironic translations (in marked contrast to the over-emotional Latin of Cornière's nostalgic vignettes of a childhood bonded to the local stadium, *Smells, Girls, Disabled*, and, best of all, *The Punch-Up*). "The players had to be separated, the trainer called on, the captains brought together the linesman questioned, the coaches asked to return to their respective benches. If there was another brawl, it would take ages to put the flames out."

"Let us hope that it will not be like this tonight," M. Roux added.

The sculptor Albert-Louis Chanut, a great Anglophile and the main man behind the iconography of the cafés, informed his country's "paranoid" security precautions: "Every great party must have a few dead and injured. This is normal. Look at the carnivals in Brazil. We mustn't blame the English for everything."

One thing they couldn't be blamed for, having been squeezed out, was most of the dodgy stuff being read out at *Le Grillon*. Since he too was left out, I shall give the final word to Borges, who had more of a hand of God than Maradona and gave the wittiest and most concise account of that great show-down between General Galtieri and Mrs Thatcher. He said it was like "watching two bald men quarrelling over a comb".

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"I have to admit that taking the second penalty was very tough. My heart was beating so fast. But it went in, and we won, and we are so overjoyed." Croatia's Davor Suker, whose twice-taken penalty settled yesterday's second-round tie against Romania.

"Croatia deserved the victory, they were much better, more cohesive. Romania is the biggest supporter of Croatia in the quarter-finals and in the rest of the cup." Romania's coach, Angeli Iordanescu.

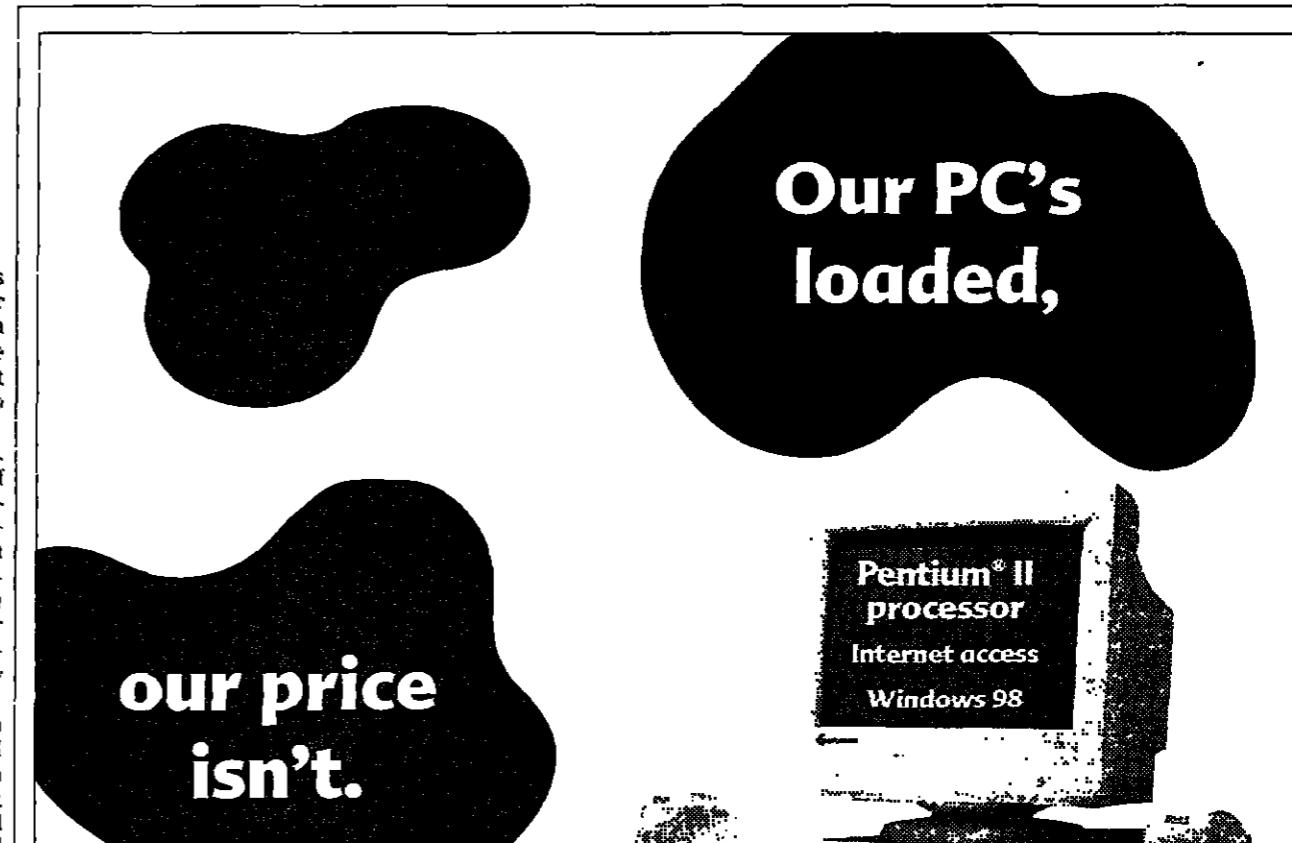
"We have everything we can to get revenge and beat Germany. The Germans are our friends and there is nothing better in sport."

"We leave with our faces to the sun." Mexico coach, Manuel Lapuente, whose side were knocked out by Germany in the second round on Monday.

"When the team helps me, I can help them." Brazil striker Ronaldo, yet to find top form.

"We leave with our faces to the sun." Mexico coach, Manuel Lapuente, whose side were knocked out by Germany in the second round on Monday.

"I am not an expert on soccer but I think the Brazilians are always hard to beat." Bill Clinton, US President, shows that he does know something about football.



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Bergkamp's 'lucky' escape from red card

DENNIS BERGKAMP equalled a goalscoring record for the Netherlands in their dramatic 2-1 win in the second round of the World Cup in Toulouse on Monday - but furious Yugoslavia players insisted that the Arsenal forward should have been sent off before Edgar Davids' injury-time winner.

"I suppose I was a little bit lucky," said Bergkamp, who appeared to tread on the midriff of Yugoslavia's defender, Siniša Mihajlović, in a similar episode to the one that saw France's Zinedine Zidane sent off and suspended for two matches against Saudi Arabia in the first phase.

"But I was provoked and, besides, it was really nothing," Bergkamp added. "Yes, I touched him but it was nothing very bad. The Yugoslav players made a lot of fuss about it. That was why the referee booked one of their players. But I know I didn't do anything really bad."

The incident occurred just seconds after Predrag Mijatović missed a penalty for Yugoslavia - the first World Cup spot-kick in normal time to be missed since 1990. With the scores level at 1-1 after Slobodan Konićević had equalised Bergkamp's first-half strike, the Dutch cleared the ball to the other end and the Arsenal striker was involved in a running battle with Mihajlović, who went down.

Bergkamp, who suffered the second sending-off of his Arsenal career last season for retaliation with an elbow against West Ham in an FA Cup sixth-round replay, was not even spoken to by the Spanish referee, Jose-Manuel Garcia Aranda. Instead, the official showed a yellow card to Zoran Mirković for his part in an ugly scuffle that followed, as Yugoslav players angrily surrounded Bergkamp.

Davids struck a beautiful 20-yard drive to give the Dutch

a deserved victory in stoppage time, earning them a quarter-final place on Saturday. Before then, Yugoslavia had defended deep both before and after Bergkamp, playing his 60th international, blasted in a 36th-minute drive to equal the Dutch scoring record of 33 goals set by the 1950s stalwart Faas Wilkes.

Bergkamp said: "Yugoslavia have some talented players but they seemed a little scared. When I looked at their team-sheet and saw two or three very good attacking players only on the bench, I knew what sort of game it would be."

"It looked certain to be extra time until Davids' great goal. I'm sure the match will be remembered more for that than me equalising the record."

Dutch players refused to comment when their own media led questions about a bizarre incident at the end of the game when the substitute Winston Bogarde ran onto the field to join in the celebrations and jumped heavily on the goal-keeper Edwin van der Sar, who appeared to respond with an outstretched arm.

After the match Davids said the coach, Guus Hiddink, had forced him to stay on the field as his legs were hit by cramp in the dying seconds. "I had cramp. I told the coach I had a problem, but he told me to stay on. I just put everything into that last strike and it went in," he said.

Davids scored the goal after 92 minutes of play, his first for his country, with a fierce left-foot shot from 25 yards which took a slight deflection.

"I don't know why we played so fearfully," said the captain, Dragan Stojković. "A lot of things have to be analysed after we cool our heads."

Santrac, who is rumoured to be on the brink of losing his job, said: "Our play was up and down throughout the World Cup. We had a lot of injury problems as well."

les when the Yugoslavs attacked, living up to his nickname of "Pit-bull."

Like the rest of the Dutch

squad, Davids felt the Dutch were well worth their win, having outplayed their opponents for much of the game.

"They played for about five

minutes, but we had the rest of

the match, although we were

lucky with the penalty. But,

who knows, now we've had a bit

of luck, maybe we can get to the

final," he said.

Davids was happy with the

result, but still maintained his hostile silence towards Dutch journalists, answering only in Italian and occasionally in English. Two years ago he was in disgrace, sent home from the European Championship in England after accusing Hiddink of favouritism.

Hiddink admitted he almost

took of Davids before his stunning strike. The coach said: "He had a muscle problem and I wanted to take him off but decided against it. It was a very exciting match and a very exciting finish but I thought we deserved it because we dominated for so long."

In the Yugoslav camp, there

were mixed reactions to their

defeat. "We go back home with

our heads held up high. We lost

against probably the best team

in the world," the defender

Zejko Petrović said.

Other players, though, were

not so proud of their perfor-

mance on Monday, indirectly

blaming the coach, Slobodan

Santrac, of "cowardly" tactics

against the Dutch.

Santrac, who is rumoured to

be on the brink of losing his job,

said: "Our play was up and

down throughout the World

Cup. We had a lot of injury prob-

lems as well."

Edgar Davids (fist raised) is mobbed by his Dutch team-mates after scoring his late winner against Yugoslavia

Reuters



Brazil hold few fears for dashing Danes

Holders praise new hero

THE SPIRIT of 1992 is alive and well in the Danish camp as they prepare for the ultimate test in world football - Brazil.

The Danes, who play the world champions in Nantes on Friday after reaching the quarter-finals with a superb 4-1 win over the highly fancied Nigeria on Sunday, evoked memories of their finest hour in Sweden six years ago when they won the European Championship.

Brian Laudrup, the Rangers forward who is joining Chelsea next season, said: "In 1992 everyone said that it would be impossible for us to beat the Dutch and the Germans. It's exactly the same scenario here and we are just as confident now as we were then."

Six years ago the holidaying Danish players were recalled from beaches all over the world as Denmark were called into the European Championship to replace war-torn Yugoslavia.

Defying all the odds, they beat the defending champions, the Netherlands, on penalties in the semi-final before grabbing a dramatic 3-0 win over the then world champions, Germany in the final.

Now, at France 98, Denmark are planning a further upset after finally silencing their mounting band of critics with a scintillating display of attacking football. The victory has sparked an explosion of interest in the Brazil game back home and on Monday the Danish Football Federation were bombarded by over 20,000 telephone calls as fans rushed to secure one of the precious 1,300 they have been allocated.

"It's a fantastic achievement for a country like Denmark with a population of just five million," Laudrup added. "We didn't play that well in our group matches against Saudi Arabia, France and South Africa, but we were brilliant against Nigeria. We knew we would get it right."

"We all had a talk about the way we were playing before the Nigeria game and agreed that we shouldn't change anything. On the night it all just clicked."

Laudrup played in Denmark's memorable 4-0 win over Brazil in a friendly in Copenhagen in 1989 when his brother Michael stole the show with two goals. "That was Michael's match. He was absolutely unplayable," the younger Laudrup said.

The defender Marc Rieper, who will be up against the best attacking line-up in world football, said he is relishing the prospect of taking on the likes of Ronaldo, Denilson and Bebeto. "I am not in the least bit frightened," said the Celtic man. "Far from it - for me this is the most exciting moment in my career."

THE STEREOTYPED image of Latin America's top footballers is of brooding, temperamental prima donnas. It is one that does not fit Cesar Sampaio, Brazil's unassuming and unlikely goalscoring hero.

The 30-year-old Japan-based player does what he is told, has never stormed out of a training camp in a fit of pique, and prefers reading the Bible to a life of night-clubs and glamour. When Brazil arrived in France for the tournament, their goals were expected to come from Ronaldo. The Internazionale striker was so brimming with confidence that he believed he could beat Just Fontaine's record tally of 13 goals in a World Cup final.

Cesar Sampaio, a defensive midfielder, had only scored three international goals before the World Cup. But, as Brazil approach quarter-final with Denmark in Nantes on Friday, Ronaldo and Cesar Sampaio are level in the goal charts with three each.

"My strong point has always been my consistency," Cesar Sampaio said. "I have never been a regular goalscorer." But his positioning at set-pieces and his powerful headers have turned him into one of Brazil's most dangerous assets.

Cesar Sampaio has 36 caps but, at this stage last year, he appeared an outsider for a World Cup place. He did not play at all in last year's Tournoi de France and made only one appearance as a substitute in the Copa America in Bolivia.

But when the coach, Mario Zagallo, found himself short of players for the Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia in the winter because of club commitments, Cesar Sampaio was given a chance which he grabbed. He sealed his place with a goal against Germany in March, when Brazil won a friendly in Stuttgart 2-1.

Zagallo has heaped praise on his top midfielder. The coach said: "Cesar Sampaio is perfect and not just for the goals but for his ability to get forward, his determination and his positioning. He is complete."

Mexicans head home with a 'new image'

MEXICO LEFT the World Cup with pride intact after Monday's 2-1 second-round defeat to Germany in Montpellier.

The Mexicans certainly have nothing to be embarrassed about after showing fighting spirit and an adventurous style. In the group stage they came from behind in all three games, and only France scored more goals.

Things looked shaky when they trailed South Korea 1-0 in their opening match, but when Hs Seuk-ju was sent off after 20 minutes they gradually took control. Three second-half goals, including two for Luis Hernandez, gave Mexico an ultimately comfortable victory.

It was worse against Belgium as a red card for Pavel Pardo and two goals by Marc Wilmots had the Europeans seemingly in charge. But another red card - for Belgium's

Gert Verheyen - sparked another fightback and a penalty by Alberto Garcia Aspe followed by goal from Cuauhtemoc Blanco.

Then, trailing the Netherlands 2-0, with Belgium leading South Korea, Mexico looked destined for a first-round exit. But again they threw caution to the wind and poured forward. Their reward for relentless attacking was goals by Ricardo Pelaez and, in injury time, Hernandez. South Korea's equaliser meant they were in the second round anyway, but the lift that draw gave them was huge.

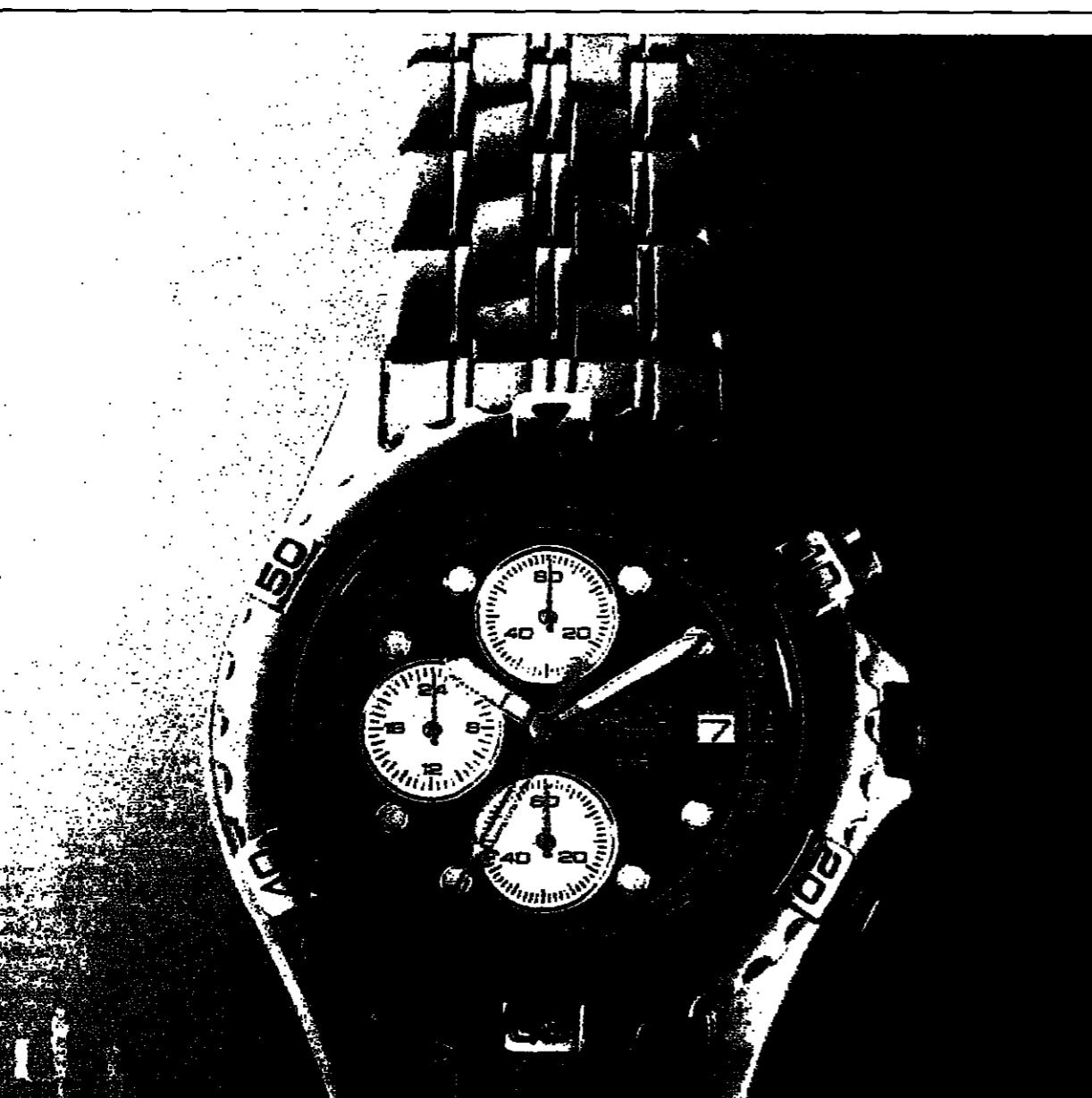
Against Germany, for the first time in four games, Mexico scored first and Hernandez's fourth, and best, goal of the tournament was reward for some enterprising play. The long-haired striker had a glorious chance to make it 2-0 after

an hour but shot weakly, opening the way for Germany to make a comeback that surprised no-one.

It was hard on Mexico, who certainly did not seem overawed by their illustrious opponents. But their post-match comments show the mental gulf that exists between themselves and the world's leading nations.

"I'm very proud of my players and the way they attacked a team like Germany," their coach, Manuel Lapuente, said. "We scored and we showed that we are a team able to compete with the best."

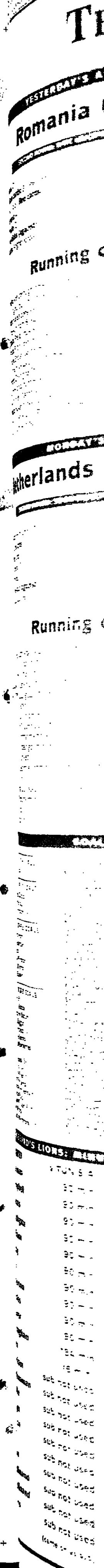
The players held similar views, with the veteran goalkeeper Jorge Campos saying: "It's a disappointment, but we are already proud of getting past the first round. From now on Mexico will have a new image."



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SPORT



MATT DAWSON'S POSITIVE THINKING P27 • PAUL ADAMS FIRES SOUTH AFRICA P23

Ivanisevic has goals in mind

BY JOHN ROBERTS

IT WAS difficult to keep the mind off football yesterday, even if you happened to be at a crucial stage of one of the most important tennis matches of your career. Goran Ivanisevic, well aware that Croatia were lining up to play Romania, was about to start a fourth-set tie break against Todd Martin on Court No 13, down by the landmark water tower - a lengthy jostle from the nearest television set, even with securities at your side.

Ivanisevic knew because he had been keeping an eye on the clock among the ivy above the main entrance to the Centre Court. "When I looked to the left," he said, "I always saw that big clock, you know, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00, 3.30. I'm still playing."

Determined to concentrate on the shots on the court, Ivanisevic hit a smash for 3-1 just as the whistle was blown for the kick-off in Bordeaux. Leading 4-2, he sprinted round the net for the changeover, not even pausing for his towel.

After winning the shoot-out,

7-2, to complete his victory, 7-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6, Ivanisevic went through the post-match formalities, packed his rackets, shouldered his bag, and headed towards the clock. He was in the middle of his media interview when Davor Suker scored Croatia's decisive goal with a twice-taken penalty. "Good," Ivanisevic sighed, licking his lips in anticipation and adding that his Wimbledon wish was for Mark Philippoussis to beat Pete Sampras in the quarter-finals, "and whoever it is in the semis, so we can play in the final."

Ivanisevic's role in this scenario involved defeating at least one Dutchman, since two have advanced to the last eight of the men's singles for the first time in history. Ivanisevic must overcome Jan Sinner in the quarter-finals and be prepared to serve Mark Krajicek in the last four.

Richard Krajicek has provided the 1996 champion's dodgy knees do not buckle when he keeps an appointment with Davide Sanguineti, an Italian fellow who dodged security and broke into the quarters.

"I watched him play one game once," Krajicek said when asked to give evidence. "He played Rome this year. I think

it was Sanguineti. And he won this match, back on the old stadium. He was playing [Cedric] Pioline, and he was serving for the match. So if I had not watched the game, I would never know how this guy plays. And, yes, I think he's right-handed, from what I remember, and he's got double-handed backhands. I've no idea."

To be fair, Krajicek has enough on his mind worrying about his knees, both of which have undergone surgery. The right knee, which is regarded as the better of the two, was hurt again yesterday when Krajicek slipped and twisted it towards the end of the second set of his win against Wayne Ferreira, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5. "I'm lucky that there was another invalid on the court and that he couldn't serve and that I won it in straight sets," Krajicek said, with reference to his South African opponent, who was handicapped by a strained stomach muscle.

John McEnroe, while entertaining the Centre Court spectators during a rain break on Monday, used the old line about the older he gets the better he used to be. Ivanisevic hopes the same does not apply in his

case, having lost two Wimbledon finals, to Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras.

Ivanisevic wiled away some of his time in the locker room watching the BBC's re-run of his fresh-faced young self playing a Las Vegas with shoulder-length blond locks in 1992. "It was a little bit tough for me to watch, but I saw the whole of the fifth set," Ivanisevic said, suppressing a shudder at the outcome. "I'm playing much better now. I'm vollying very well. I don't panic when the volley comes. This year is a good chance for me. I'm playing the best tennis ever I played here, and so now it's three more matches to go."

Ivanisevic, seeded No 14, and Krajicek, No 9, have emerged from the black hole known as the bottom half of the draw. Above them, the heavyweights have slugged their way through the eliminators, and now Sampras' title goes on the line against Philippoussis. Petr Korda, the third seed, takes on Tim Henman and Britain.

The imagery of Greek meets Greek is heightened by a tattoo of Alexander the Great which decorates a Philippoussis bicep. Mark did not do Alex justice during the lead up to Wimbledon, a first-round loss at Queen's Club provoking a response hardly befitting a warrior, Greek or Australian.

"Three weeks ago, I didn't want to play Wimbledon," Philippoussis recounted. "When you have a loss which you don't expect, there's lots of anger inside of you, and you're saying something you don't mean, just out of anger. I think I said too much. After that, I just relaxed, and I talked to my father, and my sisters came from Australia, and I had that family support."

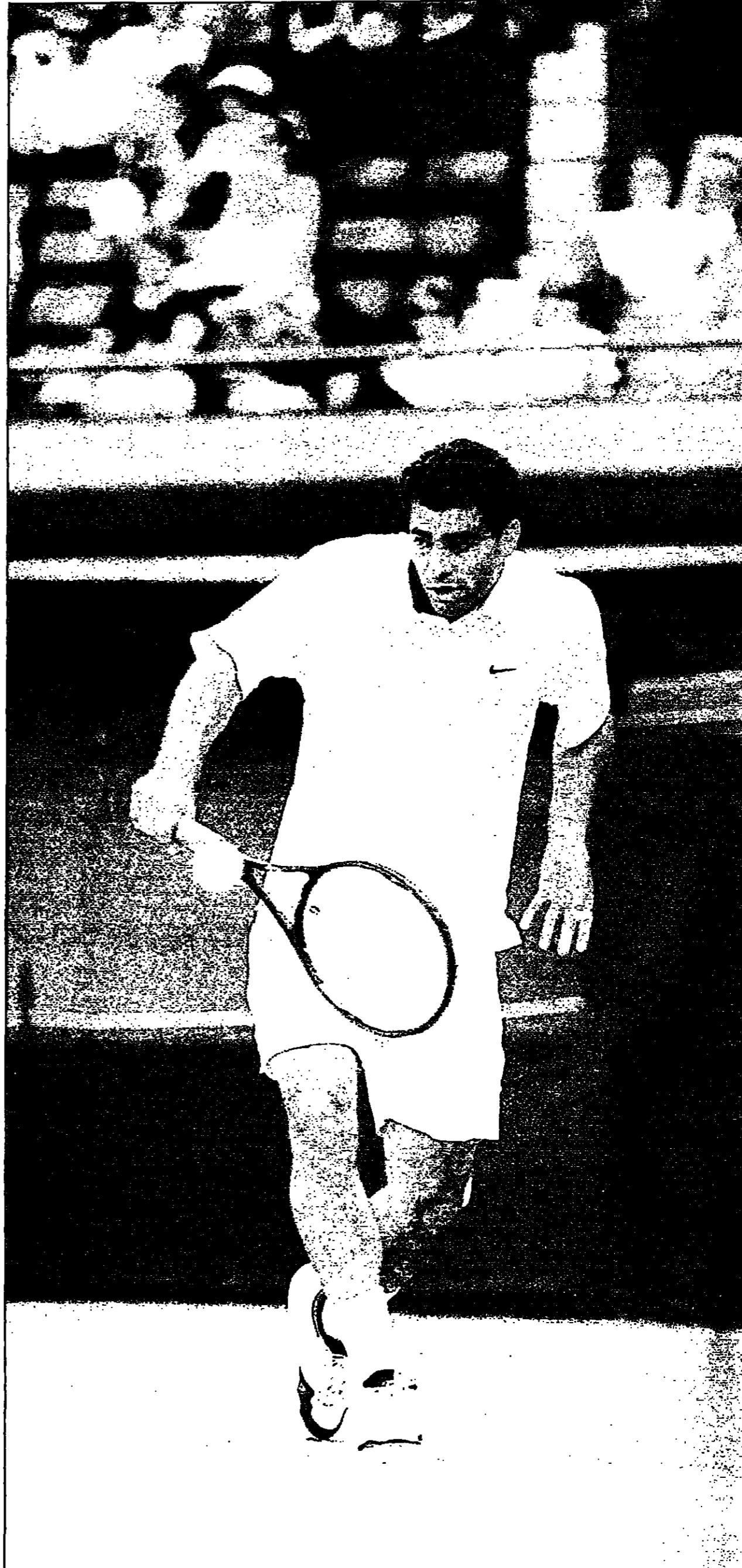
Australia's support would have been divided yesterday, at least until Philippoussis united the nation to his cause after defeating his compatriot and 1996 semi-finalist, Jason Stoltenberg, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3, 6-3.

Although he has lost four of his six previous matches against Sampras, including a straight sets defeat in the second round at Wimbledon two years ago, Philippoussis says he is undaunted. "There will be nerves, but I'm sure I'll settle down very quickly. It's one of the biggest matches of my life, but I'm 21 and hopefully there will be a lot more ahead of me."

Sampras' journey to the last eight incorporated a slight diversion yesterday to play Sébastien Grosjean, a 20-year-old French qualifier ranked No 117. Sampras won, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. "I've got one goal in mind, and that's to try to win here," he said, almost matter-of-factly. "I've got Philippoussis tomorrow. He's got one of the biggest serves on the tour. Anyone who can serve big, Krajicek, Goran or Philippoussis, is very tough to beat."

The other day, Krajicek described Sampras as the 10th ranked player in the world on current form. "It doesn't really phase me," Sampras said. From Pete, that's fighting talk.

Wimbledon, pages 24 & 25
Results, page 25



Pete Sampras plays a backhand on his way to victory over Sébastien Grosjean yesterday

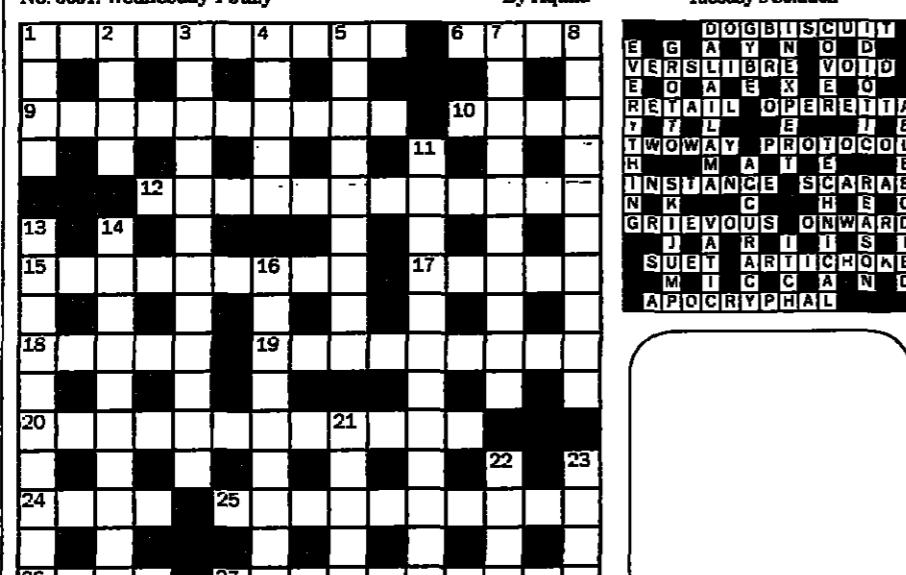
Robert Hallam

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3651. Wednesday 1 July

By Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



ACROSS

- 1 Beast — silly clue for amoeba, perhaps (10)
- 6 Bridge term (4)
- 9 Studies and does exercises for forces (10)
- 10 Card-game habit is back? (4)
- 12 St Malo trip in a new jumper (12)
- 15 If retiring, fit a new hearth (9)
- 17 Call to attract the main prophet? (5)
- 18 Contrite fell with feverish cold (5)
- 19 Chopped escaroles in stew-pot (9)
- 20 Cordial Dutch house-game (6,6)

DOWN

- 1 Knowing principal (4)
- 2 Companionable part of Scotland? (4)
- 3 North coming out in defence of man's study (12)
- 4 Appeal of The Tulisman? (5)
- 5 Poultry people, possibly? (9)
- 7 Licence obtained through embassy (10)
- 8 Succeeds in passing through Gate One — it's repaired (10)
- 11 Earth-circles used as means of assessing ground-rents (7,5)
- 13 Fan from Spain (10)
- 14 Commonplace things, penny-farthings in America? (10)
- 16 Stock actress on dancing (9)
- 21 Relative in the pop business? (5)
- 22 Estimate not quite perfect (4)
- 23 Chruch taking in approved solid fuel (4)

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Wednesday 1 July 1998. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

Ronaldo's not all he's cracked up to be.

Ronaldo. He's all right.

Shearer, Sheringham, Owen. Admittedly, not all bad.

But if asked to say who's making the biggest contribution to World Cup 98, it's got to be Hewlett-Packard. No question. OK, let's be honest, they can't play football. Against HP even the Jamaican defence would have smiles on their faces.

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

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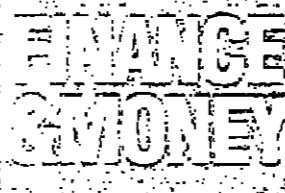
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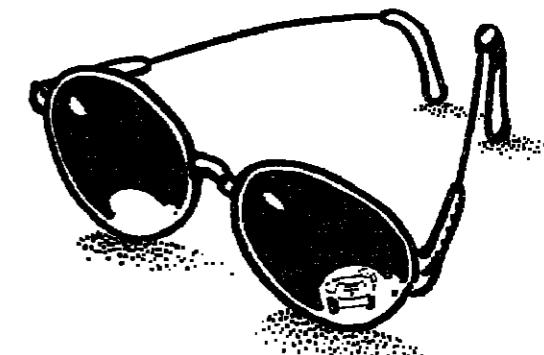
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Today is Princess Diana's birthday. You may not care about this, but be warned that it means that it is the first day of a new Diana world. We can walk through Althorp's gates (for £9.50) and enter DianaWorld complete with grave. In two months there will be another Diana day and no one knows how we will react to that either. Anything could happen, as even republicans will note with satisfaction. In death Diana is as unpredictable as in life.

None of this will have been lost on Andrew Purkis. It is only two weeks since he arrived as the new chief executive of the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and, really, it was almost too late. The fund has been in crisis since it was born in the heat and haze of last September. Mr Purkis is being paid £75,000 to make a molehill out of this mountain, and he may be just the man to do it. He has the kind of CV that an angel-in-training might aspire to. For years he was an adviser to God (well, the archbishop of Canterbury, in fact) and now he is representing the nearest thing this country has to a saint. In fact, when I meet him at the fund's offices at Millbank Tower I can't help but look for a halo. Instead, I see a man who is trying hard to be grey. Grey suit, greying hair, greyish manner. I'm sure the halo would match, if only I could see it.

"I suppose both, in their ways, are iconic figures," he says. Well, you could say that, if you spoke only in understatement. As it happens we are sitting in a room full of Diana memorabilia. A Diana cup and saucer perch on a filing cabinet. Along one wall are six rows of shelves holding large red binders that contain proposals to market Princess Diana compost, air freshener, lager... Yes, I think we are on territory here. No one ever wanted to name a lager after the Virgin Mary.

It is Andrew Purkis's job to make the Memorial Fund work. Until now it has not, really. But, with the anniversary season upon us, you do not have to be a PR genius to figure out that it is time that the Memorial Fund got itself together. After all, the fund now stands at £70m. Someone might just want to look into how the trustees are spending it and why the fund itself has been in crisis for so long. In fact, that is exactly what I want to know.

In many ways, the Memorial Fund has mirrored the icon herself: mercurial, well-meaning, controversial and high profile. Very high profile. "The fund cannot do anything without being in the news. The world criticises it every move and the world has such high expectations," says Maggie Baxter, of Comic Relief, who was seconded to the fund early this year. Insiders call it "the Diana syndrome", and certainly the fund has suffered from this. But, in other ways, it has been hopelessly amateur and has deserved its bad press. Mr Purkis is pragmatic about this. "I do think it has got embroiled in too many controversies in the past, which is a pity," he says. More understatement. I have come to the interview, in fact, with one list of controversies and another of achievements. There are seven things under the first and one under the second.

"Yes, well. I do think things are improving rapidly," he says. "But this was put together in a massive hurry. It's like scrambling an aeroplane. When you have to get an aeroplane up there fast, you do leave half-eaten pork pies and half-drunk cups of tea around, and don't shut the door, and get in there and get it up and think about the safety regulations afterwards."

While he is saying this, he does something unusual: he raises his voice. "BUFFETED BY emotion in extraordinary and chaotic circumstances, people just had to GO for it. And they SUCCEDED. They did it. And here is a vehicle for channelling lots of emotions and resources. It's a great achievement, but..."

The "but" is crucial. For months the fund was run in spectacular chaos out of Kensington Palace and the law offices of Diana's very high profile lawyer Anthony Julius. It cannot have helped that the other two key figures - Diana's financial adviser Michael Gibbons, and her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale - were in mourning. Despite its lack of structure (and even an address) it carried on, buoyed by goodwill and understanding. This disappeared in January when reports emerged that lawyers from Mishcon de Reya (yes, the very same one whose senior partner at the time was Anthony Julius) charged half a million pounds for 11 weeks' work.

This work was to establish who owned the intellectual property rights for the Princess of Wales (her will did not provide for this). The Fund has now been granted those rights by Diana's estate. This allows, among other things, the use of her signature as her logo and the right to take legal action against anyone trying to market a product of which they do not approve. This includes the Franklin Mint, which wants to sell a Diana doll complete with Angola landmine outfit.

But all this is lost on the public, who believe they already own their very own personal image of the Princess. Whose life was it, anyway? Even Tony Blair knows the answer to that: Diana belonged to the people, and the people have not forgotten. "There is an expectation that every penny of the £1.5m given by Auntie Agatha in Worthing to the fund would be spent on public good," said one observer. "And people felt that lawyers were profiting."

The lawyers disagreed. Anthony Julius, who has since become a consultant to Mishcon de Reya and is no longer a senior partner, gave his time free of charge. The firm knocked 20 per cent off their fees. Auntie Agatha still wasn't impressed.

"There is a distinction between perceptions and reality, but perceptions are important and the perception was that somehow or other the chairman of the fund, Anthony Julius, might be benefiting from the legal work done for the fund," says Andrew Purkis. "I am quite sure that is entirely untrue. He hasn't benefited by one single penny. In fact, he has given a vast amount of expensive time of his own for free. But perceptions matter, and it is good that it is now unambiguous that he is not a partner in Mishcon."

And there were other problems, not least that at that time not a penny of the money donated to the fund had in fact been given to anyone. (In fact, it was to be March before the first grants of £13m were announced.) Meanwhile, running expenses continued. "Because there was no one else around, they did a lot of things that normally the staff of a voluntary organisation would do. So instead of paying relatively modest voluntary sector salaries to do certain things, they were being done by top-drawer lawyers and, even with a 20 per cent reduction of charges, the bills are still quite heavy," says Mr Purkis. "But it was temporary, and part of the scramble-for-the-aeroplane syndrome."

The fund is now in the process of hiring its own staff (at voluntary sector salary levels). This week, Andrew Purkis notes with something like triumph, it is recruiting a bookkeeper. "We are in the course of becoming a normal, boring voluntary organisation, albeit doing very important and we hope distinctive work. And we are getting there," he says. So why has the legal work not been put out to tender yet? He does not answer, except to say that in time it will be.

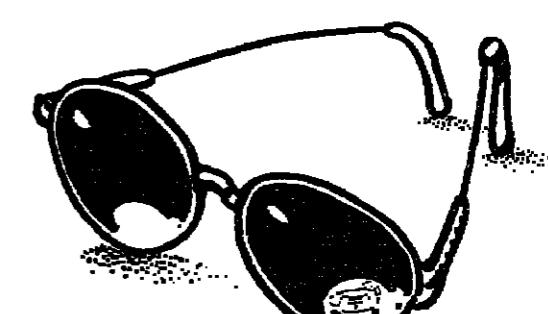
Two other controversies were to hit the fund. One was the great Flora Margarine debate. This was sparked when the fund was chosen to be the main charity for the Flora London Marathon. As such, its logo appeared on the tubs. Never mind that the Flora team raised some £1.25m for the fund. Nor was the switchboard jammed. Flora sold 18 million tubs, and only 200 people rang the hotline.

None of this seems to have made an impression on Lord Spencer, though. He thought the margarine tubs were tacky (this from a man who is creating a Diana museum, and who has shared his intimate memories of her with anyone who wanted to tune into BBC 1). Nor did he like it when Littlewoods did a scratch-card in Diana's name. This, so far, has raised a half a million pounds. It is the most successful charity-based game yet, and the company has not received any complaints. Obviously the Earl does not have its phone number.

By April Lord Spencer's distaste for the fund and its activities had begun to look like a feud. After all, his sister Lady Sarah is a trustee. Always a strange family, they now seemed to communicate mainly by leaked letter. He even went so far as to write to trustees (details duly appeared in *The Mirror*) to call for the fund to be wound up. "He fears the fund is never going to stop," one insider told *The Mirror*, "and the idea of it going on and on making money out of her name is certainly not what she would have wanted."

This is a phrase that you hear a lot from people afflicted by the Diana syndrome. Everyone, including the Kensington ladies who walk their dogs by her former home, Diana's many unidentified friends, and no less an expert than the *Daily Mail*, seems to know what Diana would have thought about almost everything. continued on page 8

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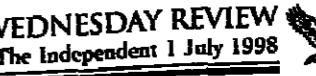
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How we beat the Germans

ONCE AGAIN NED Sherrin's *Loose Ends*, Radio 4's Saturday chat-along, leaves the safety of the studio in London, and ventures out to face a live audience. Last Saturday the gang were on stage in person at the Glastonbury Festival, which gave them an opportunity to make more jokes about mud than have ever been heard on any programme in world history, but the one moment that caught my ear came right at the end, when the singer Glenn Tilbrook invited audience participation for the old Ray Charles hit "What'd I say", which involves lots of chanting back and forth. They sort of got the idea even if they chanted back a bit belatedly.

But Mr Tilbrook wasn't entirely happy.

"You're clapping like Germans," he said at one point.

For a moment this caught



MILES KINGTON

How exactly do Germans clap? Do they do it with very stiff hands?

me on the wrong foot. How exactly do Germans clap? Do they do it with very stiff hands? Do they do it with one hand over their head, ha ha? Do they pay Turkish immigrant workers to do it for them? Do they fall behind and then win with a couple of late claps, as against Mexico?

Then the penny dropped. He meant that the crowd were all clapping on the beat. Very stolidly. They were clapping on the first and third beats of the bar as if they were accompanying a regiment marching by, and coming out with this lumpy, dead sound. It is a sound you sometimes get at the end of a concert when everyone in the hall is clapping loudly but randomly, and the separate claps suddenly coagulate into one enormous, repeated beat as everyone claps at the same time, as if some messianic dictator was about to appear.

Well, I have records of people performing in concerts in Germany, and you do indeed sometimes get the audience clapping woodenly on the beat, but you get the same in England too. What Glenn Tilbrook wanted, and what Ray Charles wanted originally, was for them to clap on the off beat, on the second and fourth beats of the bar. This is the way a black audience claps, and a blues audience claps – and indeed, I suspect the basic difference

is not between a German and a non-German audience, but between a jazz and non-jazz audience. At least a jazz audience knows where the off-beat is, and can clap on it, which argues a touch more sophistication than the Glastonbury style of clapping.

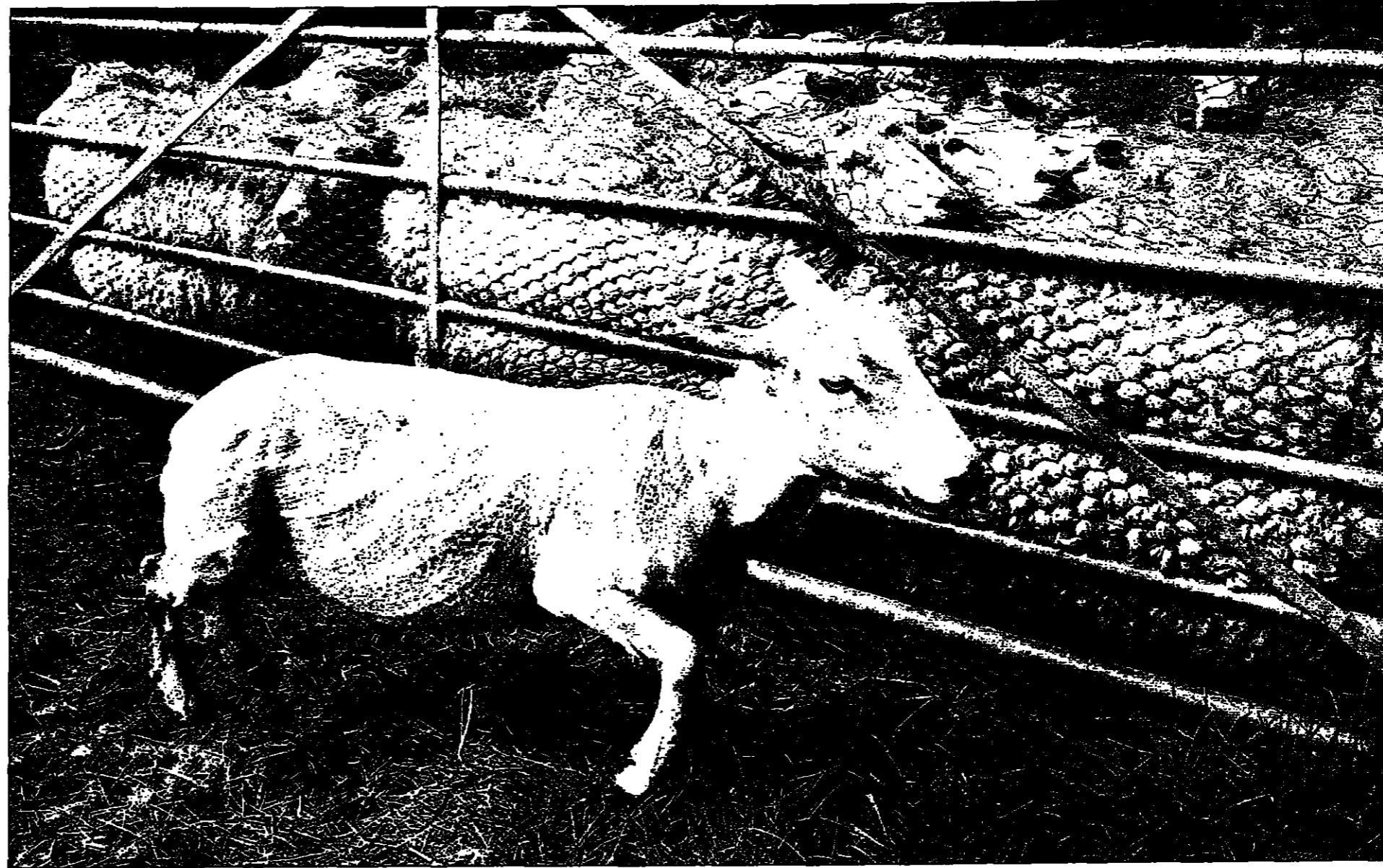
There are other differences between jazz and non-jazz audiences. I have noticed, for instance, that when a rock fan hums or sings along to a favourite record, he is humming or singing a bit that is already there on the record. The jazz listener usually prefers to supply a bit that is *not* there – in other words, to improvise a missing solo, or bass line, or drum fill-in – and to embellish what he knows already.

In case you think I am leading towards the smug conclusion that jazz audiences are hip, and rock audiences aren't, let me say that when you have heard the real thing you don't make that kind of mistake. I heard the real thing last week, in Spain, in a swimming-pool near the mountain town of Callosa en Serra. We English (a couple of families) were sitting at one end of the pool, and everywhere else there were Gypsies – attending a local festival, apparently, and taking a day off to swim. They swam rather Gypsy style, ie enthusiastically but mostly without bothering to change into bathing costumes. "Maybe they're having a quick bath and a clothes wash at the same time," said someone.)

And when they weren't splashing, they were sitting at the tables with a drink and singing. One of them had a guitar. They could all sing. They sang flamenco, and they clapped, and my God, that was real clapping. I could follow some of what they were doing, the tricky across-the-beat phrasing, and I could hear the effect when they alternated the clapping so that it became very fast indeed, but generally speaking it was rhythmic clapping of a quality way ahead of any audience I have ever heard.

Of course, the funny thing is that in that case the performers were also the audience. These men and women were not performing to anyone except themselves – they were doing it for fun and heard it. This was a return to the blessed age when music-making was something that people did, not something that people listened to. David Owen Norris once said that music wasn't an object, as we all thought today, but an activity. Somebody else once said that real folk music was music provided by the talented members of the audience, and for once in my life I have seen it happening, and it was wonderful.

NB Any letters from readers pointing out that by yards! English football chanting is creative folk music, will be respectfully read and ignored.



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Rui Xavier

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Hunters exposed

Sir: Now that the pro-hunting lobby, with the honourable exception of the drag hunters, has been exposed in all its duplicitous and barbaric nature ("Storm over fox cubs reared for hunt", 26 June) it is surely time to end its activities.

Locations have been identified where fox cubs are caged ready to be torn apart, bewildered and terrified, by hounds who "find" them in the shameful autumn cub-hunting season. Whatever else the hunt masters and their followers may say motivates them, they can no longer claim that hunting protects the countryside by keeping a check on fox numbers.

How many people are aware, too, of the practice of earth-stopping to deprive their small prey of a fair chance of escape, and of man-made earths to attract foxes into their territory so that they can be "found" to amuse and entertain followers, high-profile guests in particular, and so avoid a day without the thrill of seeing hounds tear apart an exhausted and terrified wild animal.

And how many people know of the existence of the terrier men paid to do the digging? These are the kinds of jobs pro-hunters say will be lost when the Wild Animals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is enacted. Seventy-four per cent of public opinion will say "what"? "No one bar what Oscar Wilde called the "unspeakable" element need be disappointed.

There is to be another debate in Parliament on 3 July. Hopefully the Government will not repeat the shambles of the debate in November – with the huge majority of MPs in agreement with public opinion against the hunting of wild (trapped) animals with dogs. It will provide the best chance to settle the issue once and for all, and thus save parliamentary time for other issues.

B KILBY
Hornsea, East Yorkshire

Environmental protection and social justice

The MAI will confer greater power to TNCs but without concomitant binding obligations to protect workers, communities and nature. One of the many concerns held by anti-MAI campaigners centres on the MAI provision of "roll-back", the procedure by which countries will be forced to open up protected areas and remove measures considered in violation of the expanded "rights" of foreign investors.

Under the MAI – which New Labour supports – Monsanto would have the right to sue the UK government for allowing local authorities to ban Monsanto's GM foods. If and when this corker of a court case takes place, who is going to pay the crippling costs of defending the local authorities? You guessed – the taxpayer.

As for the court's decision, don't hold your breath. The court will consist of an undemocratic business-appointed tribunal whose decisions will be binding; investors will be able to sue national governments but the reverse will not be permitted. And if the experience of similar cases brought before the World Trade Organisation is anything to go by, TNCs will win out over the environment and communities every time.

It is vital that OECD countries hold full public debates on the potential impact of MAI before the next ministerial meeting this October.

DAVID CROMWELL
Southampton Green Party

Drunken lechers'

Sir: You pose the question (leading article, 24 June): "Why would Rachel Anderson want to sit down with a bunch of drunken lechers at the Professional Footballers Association annual awards dinner?"

Last April I was banned from this event because of my sex, despite being a professional footballers' agent, the only women licensed internationally by Fifa.

Eight hundred people attended the dinner. Over half were members of the association, the remainder were guests. I was invited as a guest of my client, Julian Dicks, a member of the PFA.

The reason that I wanted to sit down at the official annual function of my profession was because it is part of my job to do so. The sex discrimination shown by the committee of the PFA and expressed by its chief executive, Gordon Taylor, prevented me.

The Minister for Sport subsequently returned his invitation to the PFA function as did Graham Kelly of the Footballers' Association, John Monks, general secretary of the TUC and Mark Turnbull, president of the National Union of Journalists. The Equal Opportunities Commission confirmed that the PFA were practising sex discrimination.

I am glad that I can now add *The Independent* to my list of supporters, but your comment that I would be joining a bunch of drunken lechers is not true. The majority of professional footballers are

Dedicated athletes and excellent company for dinner

RACHEL ANDERSON
RAM Corporation
Westcliff Essex

Quarry pledges

Sir: We welcome the news that three of Britain's biggest quarrying companies, ARC, Aggregates Industries and Tarmac are publicly renouncing their rights to extract stone from nine sensitive sites in the National Parks (report, 29 June). Much park scenery should now be saved from destruction thanks to the firms' avowed decision to give up well over 30 million tons of mineral reserves.

Unfortunately, one thing still worries us – the pledges are not legally enforceable. What if, at some juncture, the companies change their policies? What if the firms are bought out by people with different priorities?

The solution is for the National Park authorities to make orders revoking their planning permission. If the quarrying companies object, or claim compensation, their promises will be shown to be sham; if not, the landscape of the National Parks will be protected forever.

NORMA JOHNSTON
Director
The Ramblers' Association
London SW8

Millennium still on

Sir: Your headline "Tomorrow has been cancelled" (26 June), referring to the Millennium Commission's 185 capital projects, was pessimistic to the extent of being unreal. The Millennium Commission is supporting £3,000m worth of projects with £1.240m grant. Of course raising co-funding is not easy, but we should be celebrating the fact that the vast majority of the money has already been raised rather than casting a cloud over the whole endeavour.

As for the Dome, the fact that £100m has been raised in just over one year since the Labour government gave it the go-ahead is a magnificent achievement. Of course competition for funding is fierce, but the fact that the Lottery money is attracting hundreds of millions of pounds of private investment in projects for the public benefit will be a lasting achievement of which we ought to be proud.

MICHAEL O'CONNOR
Director
The Millennium Commission
London SE1

Water 'fat cats'

Sir: So a Yorkshire Water spokesman says that the "fat cat" awards to the company's directors and chief executive. "It is important that the company attracts and retains the right calibre of director... This is in the best interests of both customers and the standard of service they receive and of shareholders in relation to returns they receive". ("Fat cat" Yorkshire chiefs get 30% pay bonus, 29 June). Such is the self-seeking doublespeak of privateers who did not scruple to profit from this most controversial sell-off.

Forty years ago I chaired a water

authority, the health committee of Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council. My salary, like those of the committee members, was zero, yet we supplied water more reliably and no less pure than YW achieves.

When the town's two reservoirs were at risk of becoming insufficient for our growing population, we constructed a third in the fells near Bartmel. The council was free to plan and finance these works without capping or other shackling by central government.

Let us end the unctuous nonsense which elevates able parasites to the status of high-calibre public servants, and let us restore the honour of local government by restoring the powers which it exercised so well in its heyday.

FRANK McMANUS
Todmorden, West Yorkshire

What about evil?

Sir: Canon Roger Clifton (letter, 26 June) is doubtless right when he says that there is no final proof of the absence of God. Proving a negative is always difficult.

What can be proved, however, is that, if there is a god and yet evil exists in the world, then that god cannot be both good and omnipotent.

The standard counter-argument – that evil must exist to permit free will – falls down once one realises that it would be possible for an omnipotent god to give his creation the gift of invariably choosing to do good, but to do so freely. This is precisely what the Roman Catholic Church teaches that their god did for the Blessed Virgin Mary (the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception). If it could be done for her, it could have been done for the rest of us too.

ERIC THOMPSON
London NW2

Sir: Laurie Buxton (letter, 26 June) rightly rejects the gods of religion, but wrongly says that "no sensible atheist will reject the possibility that an intelligence directs the Universe".

On the contrary, a sensible atheist will well reject the possibilities either that an intelligence on its own can direct anything, or that anything can direct everything.

NICHOLAS WALTER
Rationalist Press Association
London N10

others. He must not be discouraged, for the kind of work he describes is of the utmost importance. It gives a chance for some of the rejected and abused to feel valued and hence reduces their need to pass their ill-treatment along a dreary and damaging chain to others. It is much too soon to despair of the human species.

GWEN PARR
Pulborough, Sussex

Threat to Islam

Sir: Rupert Cornwell well describes the West's current round of privatisation over Kosovo ("Albanian leader is left isolated", 26 June). Over the coming months we will no doubt endure further barrages of vacuous threats, as handwringing politicians pretend to the world that they care deeply about Albanian Muslims.

Bosnia and Chechnya, and now Kosovo, show that Europe cannot in practice tolerate large concentrations of people of Muslim faith. The three largest communities of indigenous Muslims on the continent have all been targeted by violent (but often noisy religious) Christian neighbours who seek to exterminate them.

The West's barely suppressed chortling over the suppression of Islamic politics in Turkey will now prove premature as the spectacle of yet another genocide against Muslims reminds Turks of the insincerity of the West's human rights rhetoric, and galvanises a massive return to Islam in Turkey and throughout a Muslim world that finds Europe's hypocrisy as repellent as its violence.

ISMİHAN AKGUNDUZ
London N10

IN BRIEF

Sir: I would like to suggest a peaceful solution to next Sunday's potential tragedy at Drumcree, Northern Ireland. There should join the march at its rear, in a peaceful demonstration, all those Catholics and Protestants who long for peace in Ireland.

DR WINNIE EWING MEP
(Highlands and Islands)
President, Scottish National Party
Elgin, Moray

Sir: Far from producing a "gridlock", the results of Northern Ireland's Assembly elections, conducted by the single transferable vote, will force politicians to work with each other. This is clearly what the people of the province want. The last thing Northern Ireland needs now is "strong government".

PAUL WALTER
Newbury, Berkshire

Sir: Jasper Rees ("End of the Bruce and Demi show", 26 June) refers to Demi Moore showing off a child "when it was still *in utero*". I assume the glass to which he is referring is the usual hourglass-like state of Ms Moore's body. Alternatively, he was absent during human biology lessons at school and is therefore, not aware that women carry their unborn babies *in utero*.

ALICE MIDDLETON
Telford, Shropshire

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars.

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday.

THURSDAY REVIEW

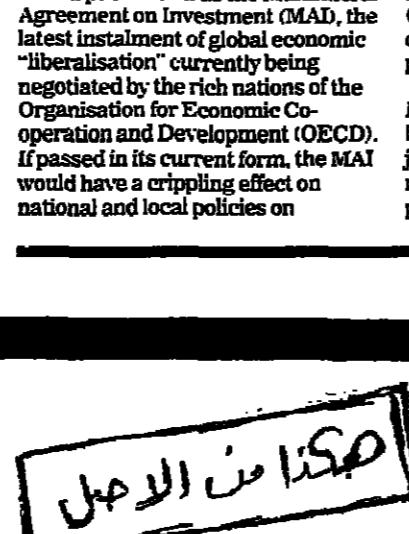
Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday.

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages

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A great distance to go on the long march to peace

CLASHES OVER parades, punishment beatings, denunciations: *plus ça change...* in Northern Ireland. Yesterday, in the republican Ballycoleman estate in County Tyrone, four women were attacked with baseball bats in a punishment beating. No one died. No great affairs of state are threatened by the incident. But while such incidents remain common, it is obvious that the peace process still has a long way to go. It is in this context that the Parades Commission's decision to ban the Drumcree march - and the Orangemen's pledge to defy it - should be seen.

It is certainly true that things are more hopeful in Northern Ireland today than at any point since the Troubles began. That there was any sort of agreement was cause for hope enough. The Good Friday agreement contains within it the possibility of further progress. But no agreement, no structure, can in itself bring peace. Peace in any area is dependent on the behaviour of the warring parties. Without the willingness of the Official Unionists and Sinn Fein to enter and remain in the process we would be no further forward than before, even the Downing Street Declaration. Without the ceasefires by the IRA and Loyalist terrorists we would still be counting the body bags. That is why Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists' claims that they are just as interested in peace are pure sophistry, since compromise is not in their vocabulary.

So the conflict over the marching season is important not just because of the possibility of disorder, great as that is. The Orange Order has 80,000 members, almost all of whom are opposed to the Good Friday agreement. After weeks where they have been on the back foot, the Drumcree march provides the first occasion on which they can show their strength. But there is a more symbolic importance. If something at once so fundamental and so inconsequential as a march still engenders so great an outflow of passion, then we are further from real peace than some of the more optimistic observers would have it. As Alastair Graham, chairman of the Parades Commission put it: the ban "reflects failure - the failure of people to find a way forward from the entrenched positions which have led to past conflict and confrontation".

At one level it is easy to sympathise with the Orangemen. The Drumcree parade dates back to 1802. Of the 3,000 annual marches, most pass without incident. And street assembly is a basic human right. Further, Northern Ireland is still one country. Whatever de-



facto arrangements may be in place, in law there are no "no go" areas for any community. Any republican has the right to pass through any loyalist area, and vice versa.

But compromise lies at the heart of any peace deal. The nationalist advice to the residents of Garvagh Road to stay inside and cover their eyes and ears until the march passes was exactly the correct response to the Orangemen's defiance. For years the unionists have failed miserably in presenting their case, missing every opportunity for the moral high ground and more often than not ceding the offering of sage advice

to the republicans, who have been far more adept at presenting their case. The Parades Commission's ban provided a perfect opportunity to demonstrate that they had learnt the lesson of past failures and are genuinely interested in peaceful co-existence. Instead they have conformed to every one of their worst traits. Even if the march passes without incident - and that is almost impossible to imagine - the Orangemen will have shown a stubbornness and an indifference to the law that can only bode ill for the future prospects of peace in Northern Ireland, Good Friday agreement or no Good Friday agreement.

Rape, feminism and Fay Weldon's desperate attempts to shock

ANN WIDDECOMBE in shocking display of empathy. Ann Widdecombe talks sense. Ann Widdecombe stands up for women. I never thought I would see the day when I found myself writing these words of the former Home Office minister who saw nothing wrong with shackling pregnant female prisoners. What on earth could have provoked an outburst of humanity from Miss Widdecombe?

None other than Fay Weldon and her reported remarks about rape not being as awful as some women make out. Big women, these two. Fay Weldon, twinkly, mischievous, charming Fay has been saying silly things about rape. As part of her "feminism has gone too far" argument she thinks that we should "deglamorise" rape and as a crime return it to the category of aggravated assault. She thinks she knows what she is talking about, not because she was actually raped but because many moons ago when she was a girl, some drunk tried it on with her in a taxi.

Ann Widdecombe offers us no such personal details, but has said that Weldon is "badly out of touch". When Ann Widdecombe accuses another woman of being out of touch, I think we should take this very seriously indeed. "Rape," she goes on, "is a very serious crime. It certainly can't be equated with an aggravated assault that might happen in a drunk's brawl."

I don't know what Miss Widdecombe has to gain from her remarks, but I do know what Fay Weldon has. She has a TV series to flog, it is called *Big Women*. She knows how to attract attention - even though she may have attracted more attention than

even she wanted yesterday, when she claimed to have been quoted out of context. But Weldon, whether quoted correctly or not, could not so easily generate a controversy if there was not already a feeling, simmering away in the background, that somehow she is right. The view that feminism has gone too far is not the intellectual property of a few dozy authors, it is an unspoken assumption amongst all sorts of people.

While most people give their vague support to the idea of equal rights for men and women, it takes very little for the notion that the balance has been tipped too far in favour of women to resurface. Every supposed "date rape" case has led to calls for women's right to anonymity to be abolished. I have long been an opponent of the category of date rape. It has been unnecessary and unhelpful. We

may have imported the concept from America, but few people seem to understand the context in which it originated. While date rape has come to be seen as merely a date that goes slightly askew, the debate about date rape started in American campuses where groups of young men were raping their fellow students. We are talking about a situation where six men might sodomise a woman with a botle. This is not a date. This is rape. Any one with experience of rape crisis work knows that the majority of women who are raped are not raped by strangers, but by men who are known to them.

So when Weldon talks about rape as little more than unpleasant sexual attention, she is not dealing with the reality at all. Of course, many women

plenty, betrayal and revenge and it is clear that she belongs to the school of thought that sees men and women as fundamentally different.

It is a school which is becoming fashionable again. Biological determinism is in. It appears straightforward, and anyway, the complicated relationship of nature to nurture could never be so headline-grabbing. Another TV series, *Why Men Don't Iron*, has been laboriously explaining the differences in our brains that mean men will continue to rule the world while women will continue to do the dishes. It is a spatial thing, apparently. Still, that doesn't answer the only question worth asking: do men not iron because their brains are wired differently to ours, or do men not iron because as long as someone else does it for them they don't bloody well have to?

If men are the new victims, and many men are rushing to occupy this position, having for years shown horrible symptoms of victim envy, then they have an unlikely cheerleader in the form of Fay. Fay has moved into "the next stage of feminism", which looks remarkably like the stage before it ever appeared. I could be wrong. I hope she will enlighten us as I, too, am interested in the next stage of feminism. Since the revolution has happened and the revolution has been televised I really can see how boring the whole thing has become. I understand how disappointed one can be with feminists. I know I am, and I am one. Where is the fire these days? Where is the guts? It has all become intolerably sensible. That's why someone like Fay Weldon can cause a fuss

or a head-banger like Camille Paglia could give us a much needed wake-up call, merely by suggesting that women don't always have to be victims but should take some responsibility for themselves.

If anyone can be bothered, they could counter Weldon's ludicrous remarks with facts and figures about the pay differential between men and women, the number of female managers, the reported rise of cases of rape and domestic violence. But such dreary, rational arguments miss the point. Weldon is clever enough to know the score and hers is an emotional, rather than analytical, argument. She has fallen into the trap that many feminists seem to, of using their personal experience to generalise about all women. Germaine Greer has done this at every stage of her life. Gloria Steinem has done it. Naomi Wolf is doing it. A new generation of women who - surprise, surprise - have found it's tough working and having a baby at the same time are now writing books about it.

Far from the personal being political, the personal is often sadly dull, limited and encircled by ignorance and prejudice. Fay Weldon describes herself as going out on a limb. If only. She is in fact turning inwards. Maybe this is to do with age, maybe it's just what happens to big women who have made a living out of taboo-busting. If the ranks of downtrodden "frightened and defensive men" want to have Fay as their spokesperson, then that's fine by me. For as long as Fay continues to go too far, we will have ample proof that feminism still has a long way to go.

MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Russia's devaluation
of the rouble

last for decades.

Time Daily, US

This is the week that Russia's economic crisis turns into a political one. With the Russian markets tumbling and Boris Yeltsin's massive economic reform package languishing in

parliament, the Russian president has begun what could be a noisy and protracted stare-down with his hostile legislators. By declaring that "we have no crisis", Yeltsin proved once again that his main disadvantage in any political

shouting-match is his own mouth; it was just sheer stupidity as by now, everyone has stopped listening.

St Petersburg Times

Yeltsin himself is the best guarantee that Russia will compromise its way into a financial corner all over again. Most of the reforms Kiriyenko put to the Duma last Tuesday have been put forward time and time again by various Yeltsin cabinets. When Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov were brought into the government last year, they pre-

sented a reform programme broadly similar to the current one. The "young reformers" got nowhere with 1997's grand programme precisely because Yeltsin refused to back them to the hilt.

Despite the severity of Russia's current crisis, the signs are already there that this year's goals will be similarly out of reach. If this week's reforms end up being tossed into the too-hard basket with all the rest, Russia will be hoping that Yeltsin's predictions of social unrest are as empty as his promises.

Put this house in order

AFTER SEVEN months and 25 drafts, the Eyre report into the future of Covent Garden has recommended ... more subsidy. Heavens! Who would have expected a former director of the Royal National Theatre to have come up with so radical a solution to the opera house's ills? Perhaps the Culture Secretary should offer a prize for the first member of the arts establishment to say something that does not include the two words "more" and "subsidy".

Covent Garden is, by any standard, lavishly funded; in spite of this, it has become a running national joke. The Arts Council provides it with £15m. The National Lottery is contributing £78.5m of the £213m redevelopment cost (although no one expects it to stick within its budget).

Sir Richard's criticisms of the management are, in this respect, spot on. Any manager is expected at the very least to manage a budget, whether he thinks it is large enough or not. At Covent Garden, it seems, managers have worked to the budget they would like rather than the one they are presented with - precisely the thing which makes the arts world such an easy target for its critics.

Covent Garden's bleatings stand in contrast to its London neighbour, English National Opera. Even under a less successful artistic regime, its management has made sure that the sums add up. That is part of the reason why Chris Smith's tentative suggestion that it should be subsumed into one national company rightly never gained acceptance.

If there is to be any change in the subsidy to the Royal Opera House it should be a reduction. Opera is a wonderful art form. It can reach heights nothing else matches. But the sort of opera presented by Covent Garden is a minority pursuit and should be made to pay its way. The Metropolitan Opera in New York manages to be better, cheaper, more glamorous and more successful without private money but with tax incentives for donations. It is not greater subsidy that the Royal Opera House needs, but tax breaks.

A national neurosis

ACCORDING TO the Royal College of Psychiatrists, one in six of us are neurotic. They must think that 100 per cent of us are gullible as well. Bring out a report - the politically correct way to advertise your service. What next? The Institute of Builders says seven in ten houses need to be rebuilt, or the Association of Garage Mechanics that 13 out of 20 cars need servicing?

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We're just scraping the blood off the walls." Diane Abbott, Labour MP, after a stormy meeting of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee into the arms-to-Africa affair

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." Count Leo Tolstoy, Russian novelist and philosopher



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PANDORA

PETER MANDELSON (below) arrived fashionably late for Monday's exhibition of Martin Rowson's political cartoons at Polito's bookshop. Awaiting him was one caricaturist who persuaded Mandelson to autograph his own drawing depicting the Minister without Portfolio wearing "Prince of Darkness" devil's horns.

When Pandora asked how he felt about being continually represented as diabolical, Mandy replied, "I feel intensely relaxed." In fact, he looked rather upright. Perhaps that's exactly what the masterful spin-doctor meant by "intensely relaxed". Wouldn't he prefer to be depicted with a halo over his head? "What, and have people write me off and forget about me?" he exclaimed.

THERE SEEMS little chance of anyone being allowed to push Mandelson out of their memory for a long time. Knowledgeable sources report that he is certain to attain Cabinet status in the coming reshuffle. Whatever post he takes, Mandelson will not be relinquishing control over the Millennium Dome to anyone else. He's convinced it's going to be his triumph.

MANY of Rowson's cartoons on display featured Robin Cook. One depicted the Foreign Secretary as Che Guevara and poked fun at "ethical foreign policy". A Labour MP, who be-screamed Pandora not to mention his name, ventured that he might buy it for Cook since "he's got a good sense of humour you know." Its creator, the cartoonist Rowson, overheard this and said, "Oh, really? I hadn't noticed." Later a view of Cook exploding like an atom bomb as Tony Blair pushed the detonator was bought by Ed Straw, brother of the Home Secretary. Was he thinking of a present for Jack's 52nd birthday on 3 August?

THE DIRECTOR Mike Leigh's brilliant films are usually proceeded by lengthy periods of improvisation and rehearsal. An inside source has told Pandora that Leigh, whose previous films have cast a surreal eye upon modern Middle England, is now working on a historical drama about the light opera maestros Gilbert and Sullivan. The cast includes Timothy Spall, Alison Steadman, Jim Broadbent and Lesley Manville. As usual, nobody will really know what the story is until the film's first screening - except Leigh, that is.

RETURNING TO the Dome (something few visitors are likely to do if the tickets are at the projected £15 apiece), *Newsweek* calls it "the biggest potential Cool Britannia albatross of them all" in its latest, "uncool Britannia" issue. That shouldn't worry Mandelson, since the article is a tedious hatchet job that attempts to recycle the magazine's successful 1996 cover story on "cool London". Real "news" is increasingly rare in *Newsweek*, whose circulation remains 1 million readers fewer than its rival *Time's*. When it does have the news, it doesn't seem to have the courage to publish it. Earlier this year, a *Newsweek* reporter had the Monica Lewinsky scoop - surely the American news story of 1998 - before any other journalist, but his editors lost their nerve and killed it.

This week's "uncool Britain" article takes particular aim at Birmingham, calling it a "post-industrial sprawl struggling to get back on its feet" and asserting that Tony Blair does not include the city in his vision of "New Britain." In fact, the regeneration of central Birmingham is such a success that, Pandora has learned, the restaurateur Raymond Blanc is planning to open there. Two years ago that would have been unthinkable.

WHILE ON the subject of "news weeklies", the former *Sunday Times* editor Harry Evans is at the centre of an extraordinary controversy about the sacking of the editor of *US News & World Report*, which runs a distant third behind both *Time* and *Newsweek*. Usually when an editor leaves, the question is "Was he pushed?" In this case, the row is about who did the sacking. James Fallows, the sacked editor of the Washington-based *US News*, believes it was his proprietor, the property magnate Morton Zuckerman. But Evans, who left Random House to become Zuckerman's editorial director, insists that it was his own decision and that Zuckerman was merely "supportive". Harry told the *Washington Post*, "I have not been known simply to be a lapdog."

A POLICE officer in Beverly Hills has told the New York tabloids that he believes the Mafia will be seeking to revenge the mugging of Frank Sinatra's wife and two friends that took place a week ago in Los Angeles. "You almost feel sorry for these thugs. Mr Sinatra had a lot of admirers in the underworld. Avenge his widow - what a way to make your bones!"

Stand firm against Orange disorder



KEN LIVINGSTONE
The use of violence and intimidation has been at the core of the Orange Order for 200 years

THERE IS no doubt in my mind that the greatest achievement of Tony Blair's government, and above all of Mo Mowlam, is to have secured a peace agreement with the support of the great majority of the people of Ireland. That should have earned them a place in history. At the core of the Belfast Agreement is the goal of creating a normal society where all citizens, whatever their religion or politics, are treated equally and where political differences are resolved through dialogue.

If that approach had been taken by the Orange Order to this year's marching season we would not be facing the threat of violence in open defiance of the law this weekend. As the Parades Commission, who have ordered the Drumcree parade to be re-routed away from the Catholic Garvagh Road, make clear, one of the key problems is that the Orange Order has adamantly refused to speak to local residents.

This may not surprise those who have studied this male-only institution's history. It is explicitly anti-Catholic and even today candidates for membership of the Order must swear never to marry a Roman

Catholic. Orange parades in nationalist areas are about as welcome to local residents as the British National Party marching through Brixton. The use of violence and intimidation has been at the core of the Order since its beginning in 1796. Indeed, the Irish historian T A Jackson described it as "the first fascist body known in history".

To his shame, David Trimble, who

should represent all of his constituents, has also rejected repeated invitations from the local residents to discuss the parades issue. Later today David Trimble will be elected the First Minister of the new Northern Ireland Assembly. He has to recognise that he is First Minister of all the people of Northern Ireland. He must turn his back on his own dubious past.

The rejection of dialogue is justified by the Orange Order on the grounds that the local residents' groups are not representative. However, a survey of the residents of the Garvagh Road area by the Independent Review of Parades and Marches in 1996 found that none of the Catholics in the area were in favour of the parade going ahead. The reason for this is clear. The Orange parades are invariably accompanied by displays of triumphalism whose message to nationalists is that they remain second class citizens.

The peace agreement will face its greatest test this weekend at Drumcree. How Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam respond could determine whether the Agreement, and this Government, go down in history as the architects of a new era of peace, or whether it meets the same fate as the Sunningdale power-sharing agreement in the 1970s, brought down by mass loyalist violence with the covert support of rogue elements within MI5 and the British Army.

extraordinary interview to an American journalist in which he virtually gives a green light to the Orange Order that if it organised sufficient civil disobedience he would once again cave in to them.

Flanagan was asked: "If the Parades Commission rules against the Orange Order... and if the Spirit of Drumcree masses thousands there again... will the RUC let them through?" According to the transcript of the programme, Flanagan, who has the power to overturn the Parades' Commission ruling, replied: "Absolutely."

If that is true it should come as no surprise that Orange lodges all over Northern Ireland are now preparing careful plans for illegal marches to demonstrate that the Government and the RUC have no alternative but to give in to them.

If the Orange Order forces its way down the Garvagh Road they will have scented once again the weakness of a British government. Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam must use whatever force is necessary to restrain the Orange Order whose real goal is to blow away the peace agreement.

The black militants who fuel the fears of racists



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN
The Nation of Islam validated the fear many Britons already feel when they encounter black men

SDX RADIO producers called me on Monday, all desperate to make contact with a militant, separatist, suitably angry young black man to put on air. One producer in particular had the tenacity of a double-glazing salesman on a hot day. Surely I must know somebody who would come on and say vile and violent things about white folk, and demand a state within a state? They already had their voice of reason, but to get the really exciting calls in, they needed a bullish Nation of Islam (NOI) chap to stir things up: presumably this would validate the fear and loathing far too many Britons already feel when they encounter black men.

This was only one of the undesirable outcomes of the shameful NOI "demonstration" that fouled up the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

Thanks, boys. Your 15 seconds of infamy meant that the spotlight in most of the media moved to your fine suits and cute red bow ties, and away from where it should have been - on the repugnant, sneering faces of Jamie and Neil Acourt, David Norris, Luke Knight and Gary Dobson.

I don't blame the NOI for complaining. The arrangements for that day should have been better. Everyone knew that the numbers of people attending could overwhelm the facilities. Feelings were running feverishly high as black people, already incensed by the failure of the entire criminal justice system, were confronted by the hubris of the five suspects. Some of the police actions were extraordinarily insensitive. So much for the race training the Met had for more than a decade.

I was at the inquiry on the day of the grand apology made by the assistant Metropolitan Police commissioner, Ian Johnston. As he unpicked bits of his apology, he kept referring to this race training like a mantra. Far from good it seems to have done. I first met Mr and Mrs Lawrence two years ago when I was asked to deliver the Stephen Lawrence memorial lecture. Like most other Britons, I was astonished by their courage, which controlled the fracas. People expect us to be unruly, make loud noises, riot. This is our allocated role. As that apologist for bad policemen, Mike Bennett of the Police Federation, said glibly: "We expected this." The great thing about the inquiry and the behaviour of all those involved with the Lawrence family is that those hateful expectations have not been fulfilled.

I was so affected by their self-

denial and control that I wept on stage, before I could gather myself up to speak. I realised immediately that I should have done better, tried harder not to cry, because I had no right to such self-indulgence. To my shame, I was appropriating the grief of the families.

What NOI did was much worse.

They stole the tragedy and trampled on it. As Mr Lawrence said: "This is private. I'm allowing you to join in but you have to conduct yourselves the way my family want you to. If you can't conduct yourselves in a right and proper way I want you to leave. When you start making noise, remember what our feelings are, not yours." Did the NOI talk to people such as Mr and Mrs Lawrence, and Suresh Grover, the campaign co-ordinator who is the unsung hero of so many such campaigns for justice? If not, why not?

If they had consulted others, they would not have ended up doing exactly what all rebels without a cause, making rebellion an end in itself and into a performance to behold rather than believe in.

I endlessly meet such people from all the ethnic minority communities. They are above integration, above compromise, above the law, so pure that you can't breathe in the same room as them. They write me threatening or patronising letters because nothing anti-racists like me do is good enough for them. They give resistance a bad name.

Black Britons were failed by this fracas. People expect us to be unruly, make loud noises, riot. This is our allocated role. As that apologist for bad policemen, Mike Bennett of the Police Federation, said glibly: "We expected this." The great thing about the inquiry and the behaviour of all those involved with the Lawrence family is that those hateful expectations have not been fulfilled.

filled until this week. Ian Johnston, who seems a decent enough man, was unprepared for and unsettled by the sheer professionalism and dignity of the people questioning him and of those watching. Some of us left the room when we could not stand some of his excuses, but the atmosphere remained calm.

Finally, the NOI has damaged its own cause and name. In Britain at least, the 2,500 members have done some good work. They have been helping black criminals and those in self-destructive activities to reclaim their lives. Leo Muhammad, one of the two leaders in Britain, is a typical example. Brought up in the care system after his parents separated when he was 11, he quickly turned into a delinquent. Soon he was carrying guns, stealing and raising hell. Now, at 39, he is an upright member of society with a clean record, and ambitions to help others like himself.

But the more sinister side of his movement destroys the impressive good done by NOI. And it seems particularly misguided to have created

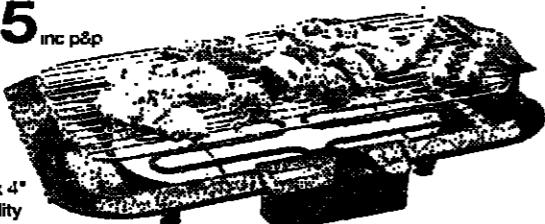
such tensions now, just when Jack Straw is reconsidering the ban of Farrakhan, which was imposed in 1987.

To atone for this fiasco, the members of NOI should go back and revisit Malcolm X's autobiography. There they will read: "One of the major troubles that I was having in building the organisation I wanted - an all black organisation whose ultimate objective was to help create a society in which there could exist honest white-black brotherhood - was that my earlier public image, my so-called 'black Muslim' image, kept blocking me. I was trying gradually to reshape that image, to turn a corner. I was no less angry than I had been, but the true brotherhood I had seen in the holy world had influenced me to recognise that anger can blind human vision."

Let them remember that it is widely believed that the lesser members of his own brotherhood shot Malcolm soon after this: and in doing so they shot themselves in their own right arm. A lesson to ponder once again this week.

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Hong Kong's strength is its freedom

I DON'T believe it. I really don't believe it. It is a year since I left Hong Kong on that wet, wet night, with Lavender and my daughters?

In a curious way, it seems both like yesterday and like an age ago. Of course, I remember very clearly every detail of our departure, the rain, the bands, the pomp, the emotion, saying goodbye to all our friends, waving farewell to Hong Kong, sailing down that ravine of lights, every window popping with the flashes from the cameras, the cheering crowds, and then out into the dark of the South China Sea with Hong Kong, wonderful Hong Kong, glittering across the horizon behind us. Just yes yesterday, but so long ago too.

Obviously the big story for you is the Asian financial crisis which has stormed through the region. The clouds first burst over Thailand two days after last year's transition. It does make me realise how fortunate I was that the regional background was so relatively calm while I was Governor. Life has been tougher for the government that I left. They all have my sympathy and under-

standing and good wishes. I've given quite a few lectures about Asia since I left Hong Kong. I try to suggest that having so often belittled Asia's performance in the past, Western investors and commentators should not now foolishly belittle Asia's achievement. When I asked the reasons for the crash, I mention three.

First, everyone knows that the immediate cause of the crash was soaring Asian debt as the dollar strengthened and the yen weakened. But there seem to me to be two more fundamental reasons.

Too many Asian governments neglected the basics. They borrowed too much, and often borrowed unwisely. There was slack regulation of banks and financial services: there was too much corruption and nepotism, that distorted economies. We're all in favour of family values but that doesn't mean lining the pockets of a ruler's family. Second, in several countries, economic development had outstripped the political institutions.

There is a premium in today's global economy on openness, on transparency, on accountability. Open societies living under the rule of law are more likely to do well in the long run than closed communities where there's no independent and impartial court system. What Hong Kong can take heart from is that it doesn't suffer from any of these three big problems. More important, Hong Kong has still got all the basics of economic management right - low taxes, a hands-off approach to busi-

ness and a marvellous entrepreneurial culture, and a well educated and highly skilled workforce. Furthermore, Hong Kong is a free society under the rule of law. It was last year and it still is this year.

Hong Kong has, if you like, all the software of a successful modern society. It has a good and clean civil service, a professional police force - one of the best in the world - and a rule of law that people recognise as their strongest shield. And Hong Kong has an instinct for freedom. When some used to tell me, usually self-servingly, that people in Hong Kong didn't care about freedom or democracy, it made me mad. I knew that was wrong, patronising, ignorant. And you've shown over the last year just how firmly rooted liberty really is. The tremendous turnout in the elections, and the endorsement of candidates who believe in decency, democracy and the rule of law, was a big thumbs-up for Hong Kong's future as a free society.

I've always believed that no one would be able to snuff out Hong Kong's democratic spirit, and I've believed too that those who believe in, who stand up for the values of a free society are far more likely to shape Hong Kong's future than those who do not. And so it has overwhelmingly proved. The flame of freedom burns bright in Hong Kong and it always will. Hong Kong is better placed than almost any other society in Asia to withstand the raging storms. Of course, you can't completely avoid being hit and there will certainly be a tougher year or two ahead. But I'm sure that keeping your nerve, keeping your eye on the long term, keeping faith with yourselves, you'll come through with flying colours. Naturally, the Patten family have missed their friends. We've missed the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, the green hills and the concrete canyons. And I've missed, as you might expect, the Peking duck and the steamed fish and the custard tarts, the best food anywhere in the world. But it's been that bubbling verve and excitement that I've missed most. I know even after spending 12 months away that Hong Kong made whatever I am today: shaped me, in a sense, for the rest of my life.



PODIUM
CHRIS PATTEN
From a broadcast by the former Governor marking the first anniversary of the end of British rule

THE INDEPENDENT

Sorder! Welcome to Coarse Britannia



MICHAEL ELLIOTT

What one might call "aggressive drinking" has become the main leisure activity of British men

MIDSUMMER'S DAY in England: brilliant sunshine, refracted into 1,000 shades of green; a slow, heavy feel to the afternoon. And cricket: the clink of leather on willow, white-clothed men (pretty equally divided among three races - this is New Britain - right?) gently ambling about in suburban London. Then a batsman is given out; he returns, disgusted, to the pavilion, where children are playing, and the air turns blue with as many derivatives of the word "fuck" as are grammatically possible, and a few that aren't. Goodbye, Jane Austen; hello, Quentin Tarantino.

I'm a British expatriate in New York but business and pleasure take me home five or six times a year. Increasingly, the debate about "rebranding" Britain as a dynamic, entrepreneurial, modern society seems to me to miss the point. New Britain, old Britain: what strikes this visitor most forcefully, these days, is Coarse Britain. On prime-time TV the night after the cricket match, Bob Geldof casually used a four-letter word and Harry Enfield's show featured sketches of extraordinary crudity. Thinking that others must have been just as offended as I was, I scanned the papers the next morning: not a word.

Then there is the booze. You don't have to be one of the long-suffering French, forced to live with thousands of football-hooligan fans, to know that what one might call "aggressive drinking" has become the quintessential leisure activity of the British male. (At the weekend, I showed this sentence to my 16-year-old niece, whose comment was "Why just the male?")

In 1988 I wrote a book on London that predicted the demise of the pub - "smelly and smoky, serving bad food in Victorian and Edwardian places". There's stiff competition, but I don't think I've ever written anything that has proved more completely wrong. The pub has become the central temple of British culture.

Worse (more on this in a minute), pub culture is no longer contained within an establishment's walls; it now spreads into the street outside, where the pint-swilling British loudly discuss their two other modern obsessions: "Culture," Melanie Phillips wrote in *The Observer* last week,



Contestants guzzle lager during a drinking race in Ingliston, Scotland, demonstrating how pub culture has spilled out into the streets

"has been reduced to football and sex." Personally, I've been obsessive about football for roughly four decades (that's about three decades longer than the post-Fever Pitch British middle-class norm). And I've got nothing particular against sex, either, but I know exactly what Phillips means when she says, "Our wider culture glorifies lowest-common-denominator values".

It's easy to pretend that Britain has always been like this; look at Howarth's prints of 18th-century London. But that's too easy. In large measure, the coarseness of modern British culture is genuinely new. In his terrific recent book *Classes and Cultures: England 1918-1951*, the Oxford academic Ross McKibbin muses on the tranquillity of the massive crowds that watched football between the wars. "Most important," writes McKibbin, "the culture of football was still aligned to the ruling civic culture in which public violence was strongly deprecated." So the question is: what happened to that old civic culture?

There are no easy answers here. You could argue that the respectable middle class lost its self-confidence as the counter-culture and economic decline fed on each other in the 1960s and 1970s. You could point to the wasting away of religion as a source of moral authority, notwithstanding the well-known beliefs of the Prime Minister. Britain must be one of the most secular societies in the modern world. You could blame (and many would) Margaret Thatcher, for forging a weird alliance between free-market economists and a macho, sexist streak in Britain, evident every day in the pages of *The Sun*. (To get an indication of just how strange Thatcherism was, imagine the action of Alderman Roberts if something like *The Sun* had arrived on his Grantham doorstep.)

My own small contribution to this debate is to note the way in which Britain has been transformed from a place where pleasure was an indoor pursuit to one where it increasingly takes place in the open

air. For all I know, in the 1950s, the whole of the East End got legless every Saturday night. But the drunks didn't use to rub their fumes and vomit in our faces. They do now.

You can, I think, date the birth of outdoor Britain precisely: the summer of 1982 when the refurbished fruit and vegetable market in Covent Garden was reopened as a collection of shops, bars and restaurants opening on to the piazza. At the time, this seemed like a triumph: just a few years before, the brutalists whose concrete slabs had wrecked half of inner London had plans to work their evil ways in Covent Garden. And indeed, when I spent a Sunday morning there recently, the market and the piazza were brimming with life (even if there were rather too many poor mime artists).

Then I turned the corner into Farringdon Street, keen to show my daughter the place where the fashion designer Paul Smith opened his first tiny London shop in the late

1970s. What she noticed was not Paul's shop; but that the street stank of Saturday night's urine.

Dismiss this, if you like, as the dyspeptic rantings of a middle-aged expat fogey. If Coarse Britain did nothing but offend people like me, it might be tolerable. In fact, it has (or soon will have) an economic cost.

In the global economy, nations and cities win and keep business very largely on the extent to which they can offer highly skilled workers a decent lifestyle, which is itself a function of perception and image. That is one reason, for example, why America's high-technology industry is centred on places like San Francisco and the front range of the Rockies in Colorado - not in Michigan. "Rebranding" Britain is not an intrinsically stupid objective.

But the "brand attributes" of Britain (and Britons) are not just, or mainly, those of a heritage theme park and honey for tea. They are, as the billions who have watched the

World Cup now know, drink, foul language and a penchant for a punch-up. Britain simply can't afford that. In case you haven't noticed, it is not a heaven on earth. Of all the G7 industrial countries, it is the only one where you can neither reliably get a tan in summer nor ski in winter.

Britain's charms as a place to live and do business are not as obvious as European competitors like Provence and Bavaria, never mind California or Sydney. In the 1960s and 1970s, I watched the image of Liverpool, my home town, transformed from that of a great international port to that of a city with aggressively proletarian values and work-shy employees. Some rebranding: despite heroic efforts, Liverpool has never recovered its former economic strength. If the cultural coarseness of Britain is allowed to continue unabated, that fate awaits the whole nation.

Most physicians are working flat out and effectively for patients. We will strive to make that 100 per cent.

Exposed: the nude snaps scandal

WEDNESDAY BOOK

PICTURES OF INNOCENCE: THE HISTORY AND CRISIS OF IDEAL CHILDHOOD
BY ANNE HIGONNET. THAMES & HUDSON. £14.95

photographer Toni Marie Angeli, whose contact sheet of her four-year-old son was taken to police by the processing lab, leading to her being investigated for child pornography. In Britain, the case of newsreader Julia Somerville has been the most prominent example of this informal policing by people with absolutely no expertise, simply access. This spying by our neighbours keeps us anxious even about our most intimate relationships with our own children. Higonet quotes from a Boston Globe survey of photo processors. What did they consider suspicious in photographs? A technician at Perfecta Cam-

era said: "If I saw a nude child, I would call the police immediately." What some men may actually get off on might surprise some of the more vigorous anti-pornography surveillance. In the homes of convicted child sex offenders, I have seen prints of *The Blue Boy*, publicity stills of Macaulay Culkin, scenes from *Death in Venice*, and pictures of Prince Harry cut out from newspapers. All of these were considered masturbatory material. A Mothercare catalogue would do as well.

Are these images intrinsically offensive, obscene and dangerous - or is it our minds that make them so? It is important to remember that this debate over the suppression of images is not concerned with the depiction of illegal acts. Any photograph that shows a child engaged in sex with an adult must be prosecutable, because it shows something that is without doubt outside the law. But what is being discussed here is much more far-reaching. It is simple photographic portraits of children that are being deemed obscene. Showing childhood nudity, and nothing more, becomes potentially illegal.

To invest the pictures themselves with some criminal element is patently absurd. Images themselves can't make anyone do anything; they suggest, perhaps, and lead ripe minds. But it is in the mind - and not on the piece of photographic paper - that the connection is made. Higonet rightly states: "The only reality a camera can record is light bouncing off surfaces. Knowledge supplies the rest. And perhaps the least reliable knowledge of all is sexual."

Higonet questions the motives behind the crackdowns on how we portray our children. Have we got to the point, she asks, where "the surveillance of images substitutes for the care of real children"? While facilities that promote their safety and wellbeing - from play schemes to after-school clubs - are being threatened, there still seems to be a limitless amount of new resources available to police images of the underaged. National energies have been re-channelled towards vehement anti-child-pornography campaigns, so that future generations can rest assured that we did our best to protect children.

Airbrushing a young person's genitals might give the semblance of doing something about abuse. But it doesn't save a single child.

DEA BIRKETT

Dea Birkett's book: *'Serpent in Paradise'* has just been published in paperback by Picador

Waiting to die, this poor donkey hangs on the side of a lorry at San Bernabe Market - Mexico.

This is the last stop for donkeys on their way to the slaughterhouse. By the time they reach here, they have already given a lifetime of hard labour to their human owners.

Every week, The International Donkey Protection Trust (IDPT) send a team including vets to this market. Their task is to try to ease the suffering of the donkeys and mules.

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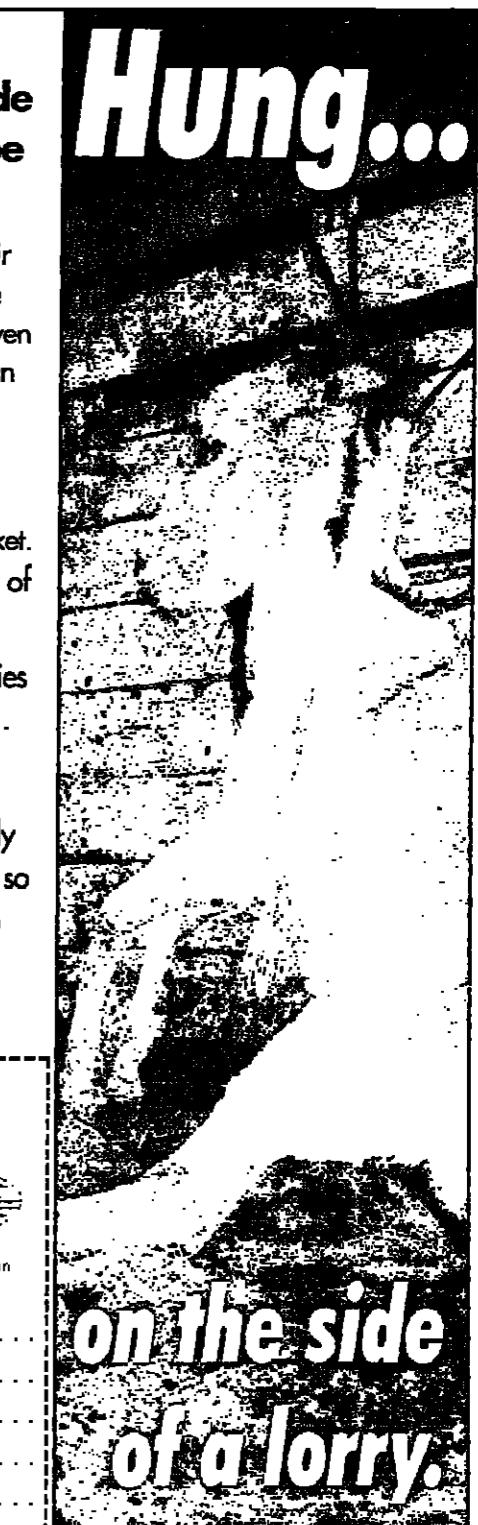
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RIGHT OF REPLY

GEORGE ALBERTI



The president of the Royal College of Physicians answers criticisms about the regulation of doctors

FOLLOWING THE sad events in Bristol, it is open season for doctor-bashing and vigorous criticism of the medical royal colleges on the grounds of complacency, resistance to change and "clubbability" - secrecy, in other words.

Are these criticisms justified? I speak primarily for the Royal College of Physicians and would feel that some criticisms are warranted. We have, however, been acting on these criticisms.

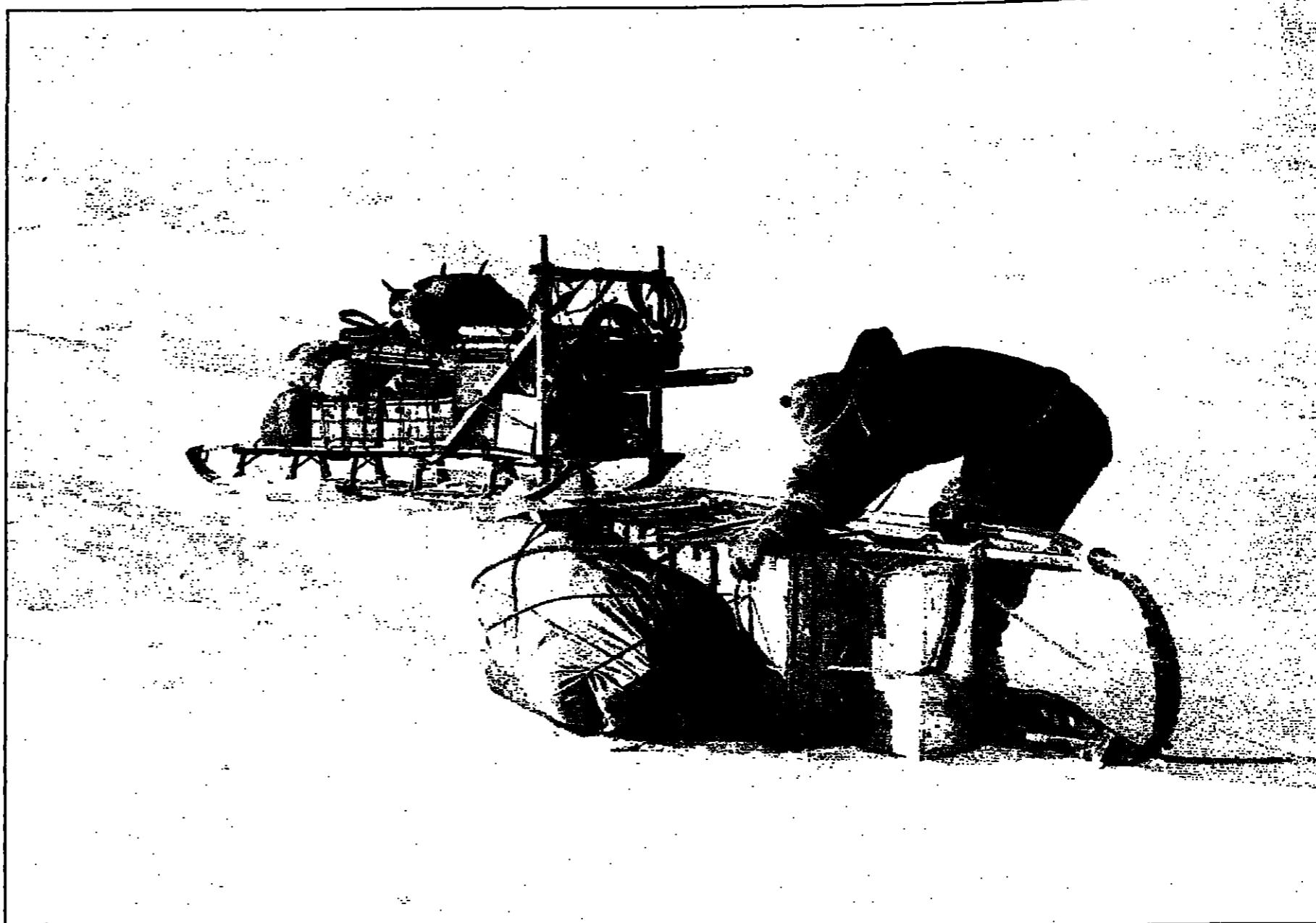
The fundamental question is, what is the purpose or "mission" of the college? It is to improve the health care of the population. To achieve this we need a well educated medical workforce. This has been a goal of the college for centuries, together with the medical schools and the General Medical Council. We set standards and require would-be physicians to pass an examination and to undergo training - not to ensure the "serf-like" apprentice existence, but to ensure that medical specialists are of the highest standard.

Far from limiting the number allowed to qualify, we have been fighting for consultant expansion for many years. We have fewer consultants per head of population than any European country except Turkey. Is it surprising that waiting lists increase and that mistakes sometimes occur? Obviously there are arguments against self-governance. We have been slow to introduce effective self-regulation. It is tragic that it took the Bristol case to accelerate progress here. But progress there is, and we are improving our systems. None of us countenances malpractice, and misguided loyalty to colleagues, if they are performing badly, cannot be allowed.

Most physicians are working flat out and effectively for patients. We will strive to make that 100 per cent.



Croft (left) on the British Trans-Greenland Expedition of 1933-34, the longest self-supporting journey across the Arctic ice-cap, of which he made a brilliant photographic record (above), using a Leica camera



Colonel Andrew Croft

ANDREW CROFT's autobiography, published in 1991, was entitled *A Tolent for Adventure*, and this summed up his long and fascinating life.

He wintered on two Arctic expeditions before the Second World War – in which he took an extremely active part – was ADC to the Maharaja of Cooch Behar (whose wife tried to seduce him in India, and witnessed terrible massacres on the border of India and Pakistan in 1947). However, he was not just an adventurer but a natural leader and an outstanding teacher. He deplored the shortages in education and training in the Army and police force, and did his best to remedy them.

It was while engaged in a short teaching job that his career as an Arctic explorer took off. He was asked to replace Roger Pettiford, a well-known explorer, who was suffering from the rigours of a Brazilian adventure, as the key member of an expedition organised by Lt Martin Lindsay. This was to cross Greenland and explore a mountain range near the eastern side.

This had been seen from the air by the British Arctic Air Route expedition led by Gino Watkins to East Greenland in 1931-32. As happened with Ernest Shackleton, who had not been fully appreciated on Scott's first Antarctic expedition,

Lindsay, having not been very successful with Watkins (he had chopped up pemmican on a paraffin tin and punctured it), was determined to show what he could do.

Fortunately the Prince of Wales was patron of his regiment and so Lindsay overcame the objections raised by the Royal Geographical Society's expedition committee. However, without Croft's preparatory work in West Greenland, engaging three dog teams and establishing a large depot up on the ice cap for the start of the journey, it would never have had a chance of success, nor would it have had such a brilliant photographic record.

The problem with Greenland is that because it is so close to Canada the ice from the Arctic Ocean can only exit down its east coast, making this difficult of access by ship. So to explore the eastern mountains Lindsay had the bold idea of starting from the west coast and carrying out what is still the longest unsupported dog sledge journey across the ice-cap. They would then travel south, surveying the mountains, to Angmassalik, to be collected by ship.

The third member of the trip was Lt "Dan" Godfrey, a Royal Engineer with surveying experience. The expedition was successful and both

Godfrey and Croft were then persuaded to join Oxford University's large wintering expedition organised by Sandy (now Sir Alexander) Glen to Nordaustland, Spitzbergen (1935-36), of which I was Chief Surveyor. Croft was Second-in-Command.

After the establishment of two ice-car stations, Croft and I went off across the island to establish a depot for the spring survey of the north coast. Being as usual over-loaded and journeying mainly on ice caps, we did not take a rifle, and so met two polar bears when we reached the coast, one of which I had to see off while Croft as the expert controlled the madly excited dogs to stop them getting hurt.

He then attempted with Glen a spring northward journey which was not successful, and then one along the east and south coasts to map them. On the way home to England he and "Brownie" Whatman, an army signaller, crossed Spitzbergen, climbing the highest peaks.

Croft was born to a clergyman father on 30 November 1906, St Andrew's Day, hence the name by which he was always known. He went to two prep schools and then to Lancing College where he was in the house run by J.F. Roxburgh. When Roxburgh left to start Stowe School, he took Croft with him to help

get it going. Croft began as head of a house and the following year became head of school.

In spite of these responsibilities, which did not help his education in the narrow sense, he obtained a place at Christ Church, Oxford, and in 1927 he was selected to work with the American Committee of the League of Nations. He met several distinguished people, including Fridjof Nansen, the great polar explorer.

Croft then went to his second university, Manchester, in order to learn about the cotton trade, in which he hoped to earn money, but which did not really suit him. Fortunately the 1925 slump got him out of that, and he was offered a teaching post at Eton, to follow a period studying German and French. This involved a visit to Germany where he twice found himself listening to Hitler's tirades, and was perhaps the only Englishman to witness the burning of the Reichstag.

After his Arctic expeditions, he worked for two years (1937-39) in Cambridge at the Fitzwilliam Museum, as assistant to the Director, Louis Clarke. During this time he was seconded to Ethel Lindgren's Ethnological Expedition to Swedish Lapland.

When the war came his knowledge of Scandinavian languages

found him in Norway, where he was involved in the attempts to resist the Russian and German invasions of Finland and Norway. He escaped from Bergen by walking over the mountains to Bodø and so eventually back to England. Here he was involved in the preparations for underground units required if the expected German invasion succeeded, and he was then posted to Sweden as assistant military attaché.

In 1942 he and Glen carried out long flights (one for 27 hours) to map the sea ice edge in the Arctic Ocean. He then joined the Commandos and after some rather frustrating experiences he was finally posted to Algiers and started an extensive programme of raids from North Africa and then from Corsica.

With the Italian surrender in 1943 Croft then became involved as a member of the Special Operations Executive in supporting the Allied invasion of southern France. Having trained in parachuting, he made a number of drops himself, as well as organising others, to sabotage the routes of the retreating Germans. For all his war service Croft was awarded the DSO, and received this and his Polar Medal from King George VI in person.

Having been only runner-up to the post of Secretary (now Director) to

the Royal Geographical Society, Croft continued in the army, and went as the British observer on the Canadian exercise "Muskrat" which was a major operation to test various snow vehicles, supported by air drops, for exploring the Canadian Arctic.

In 1949 he was persuaded to become a regular soldier with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He was posted to India, where he witnessed, and never forgot, the massacres of both Hindus and Muslims on the border of newly formed Pakistan. He then went again to Canada, as Liaison Officer HQ Continental Army, US

(1952-54); this ended when the Russian threat to America involved the production in the UK of efficient cold-weather army uniforms, in which he played a major part.

This was sadly Croft's last job, and he retired to a large and beautiful house on the Thames which took nearly all his savings and which his youngest daughter Julia took over. There he spent his retirement.

Andrew Croft was a great and much loved man. He was a close personal friend for over 60 years.

John Wright
Noel Andrew Cotton Croft, soldier, Arctic explorer and teacher: born Stevenage, Hertfordshire 30 November 1906; DSO 1945; OBE 1970; married 1952 Rosalind Madden (née de Kantzow, died 1996; three daughters): died London 26 June 1998.

Jack Rowley

AMID THE adulation and hyperbole directed at the precociously talented current generation of Manchester United footballers, several of whom have been campaigning rousingly for England in France this summer, it is easy to underestimate the stature of Old Trafford heroes from another age. Of those, few were more substantial than Jack Rowley.

Indeed, only Bobby Charlton scored more League goals for the Red Devils than Rowley, a bluntly spoken Black Countryman, whose prolific post-war prime made him a bulwark of Sir Matt Busby's first outstanding side and an early *éminence grise* of his second, the famous and ill-fated Busby Babes.

On the international front, Rowley was unfortunate that his most effective years coincided with those of other fine centre-forwards, the likes of Tommy Lawton, Stanley Mortensen and Jackie Milburn, and that the Second World War shortened his service by six seasons. However, his tally of six goals in as many outings for his country hints at a vast potential.

Rowley was born into a footballing family, his father having been a goalkeeper with Walsall and his younger brother, Arthur, destined to become the highest scorer in English League history, a record which still stands.

The older boy exhibited tremendous promise and signed for his hometown club, Wolverhampton Wanderers, on leaving school. Such was the fierce competition at Molineux, though, that he didn't make

the grade, failing to play a senior game for Wolves before leaving for Bournemouth of the former Third Division (South) in February 1939.

Predictably, given Rowley's determined nature, that was to prove but a momentary blip. So impressively did he perform for the South Coast club that within eight months he was sold to Manchester United for £3,000 and an ultimately illustrious career was under way.

In fact Rowley, a left-winger at that stage, made a tentative start at Old Trafford, asking to be dropped

His powerful shooting with either foot won him renown and his nickname 'The Bomber'.

after his début and spending a few weeks in the reserves before returning to help his new employers gain promotion to the top flight in 1938. In the following season, he developed encouragingly in the old First Division, only for his impetus to be halted abruptly by war.

Rowley served in the Army, in the South Staffordshire regiment, and took part in the D-Day landings in Normandy, but still found time to further his soccer ambitions. He helped

to win trophies as a high-scoring guest performer with both Wolves (for whom he netted eight times in one game) and Spurs (one seven-goal show was his best effort for them) and others; in addition, he won one unofficial wartime cap for England.

On the resumption of peace, with Busby newly installed as United boss, soon Rowley was converted into a centre-forward and he flourished. Though shortish for a spearhead, at 5ft 9in, he was solidly built and exuded aggression, he was extremely quick and was dangerous in the air. But it was his powerful shooting with either foot, especially his favoured left, which won him renown and his nickname of "The Bomber". He was intelligent, too, and blessed with efficient ball control, but these facets of his play tended to be overlooked in favour of his more spectacular virtues.

Between 1946/47 and 1950/51, Rowley was a leading light as Busby's side finished as title runners-up in four campaigns out of five. Come 1951/52, when United finally clinched the championship, he was top scorer, with 30 goals, then a club record. But his best-remembered individual display came in 1948, when he scored twice in the 4-2 FA Cup Final victory over Blackpool. In what was feted at the time as the most entertaining showpiece Wembley had hosted, he equalised twice after the Seasiders had led 1-0 and 2-1, and linked brilliantly with his attacking partners.

The United forward line of that era – comprising Jimmy Delaney and Charlie Mitten on the wings, and

Johnny Morris and Stan Pearson as inside-forwards and Rowley in the centre – was a joy to behold and fit to stand comparison with any of the starry combinations which have worn the red shirt since.

Rowley won his first full England recognition in the same year as his Wembley triumph, scoring on his début against Switzerland, and plundering four against Northern Ireland 11 months later. However, his international career never really took off, a circumstance which might have had something to do with a sectional distaste for his combative, eye-for-an-eye approach, and a personality which was either down-to-earth or abrasive, depending on interpretation.

Whatever, Rowley continued to do well for his club, and became something of a father figure to many of the Busby Babes who emerged in the first half of the 1950s. As he approached his mid-thirties and his own position in the team was becoming precarious, he showed admirable care and patience to the bright young things who would supplant him. Eventually, in 1955, after reverting to outside-left for the closing period of his Old Trafford tenure, Rowley left United having scored 208 League and FA Cup goals in 422 games.

Keen for a future in management, he was freed to join Plymouth Argyle as player-boss, but his passionate advocacy of attacking football could not prevent their relegation to the base-ment division in 1956. After passing the milestone of 200 League goals, on the same afternoon as his brother achieved the same feat – Arthur

beat Jack by 12 minutes – Rowley retired as a player in 1957. Thereafter he presided over an upturn in Argyle fortunes which culminated in the Third Division title in 1959.

A year later he left Home Park after the Pilgrims had struggled in Division Two and went on to revamp an ailing Oldham Athletic, only for disagreement with the board to result in his resignation three days after leading the Latics to promotion from the Fourth. There followed a stint as coach of Ajax in Amsterdam and spells in charge of Wrexham, Bradford Park Avenue and Oldham before he left professional soccer in 1969, rather disillusioned by what he saw as negative modern methods and scornful of some of the "prima donnas" then making their living from the game. He maintained his connections with grass-roots football, however, which he saw as possessing more realistic values.

Rowley became a newsagent and sub-postmaster in Shaw, near Oldham, then worked for a mail order firm before retiring in 1983.

Ivan Ponting

John Frederick Rowley, footballer and manager: born Wolverhampton 7 October 1920; played for Bournemouth 1937, Manchester United 1937-52, Plymouth Argyle 1955-57; capped six times by England 1948-52; managed Plymouth Argyle 1955-60, Oldham Athletic 1960-63, Ajax, Amsterdam (as coach) 1963-64, Wrexham 1966-68, Bradford Park Avenue 1967-68, Oldham Athletic 1968-69; married (three children); died Shaw, Lancashire 27 June 1998.



Rowley in 1955 playing for Manchester United

Colorsport

In America, they're taking to the hills and bunkers, preparing for the Millennium meltdown By Janelle Brown

Coming soon: death race 2000

YEAR 2000 survivalists, fearing digitally induced chaos, are heading for the hills. Candace Turner used to sell industrial freezer units; today, she sells Survival Domes - insulated geodesic shelters heated by wood-burning stoves. In the last year, she and her husband have stocked their Missouri farm with livestock, seeds and canned food and bought a horse-drawn plough and a covered wagon. Her four children have been told they have to learn to feed themselves, just in case.

Turner fears that on January 1 2000, the chaos will begin: the power grids will go dark, and aeroplanes and trains will grind to a halt. The stock markets will crash, along with the US government, and banks will shut down. Cities will erupt in riots and looting. Starving urban refugees, Turner believes, could show up on her doorstep as beggars.

The disaster she anticipates is not the apocalypse, but what some going to be its real-life technological equivalent: the "Millennium bug".

Turner isn't alone. Across North America, groups of concerned programmers, economics experts, consultants and techies are preparing for a varying scale of "Y2K" (geek shorthand for "Year 2000") disaster.

Computer programmers, gun enthusiasts and hardened survivalists spend their time debating whether dog meat is edible

The Y2K survivalist, or "safe haven" movement is burgeoning as January 1st, 2000 approaches.

The millennium bug is a programming glitch in many older computer programmes that use only two digits to record the date. When the year "00" comes around, no one knows how they will react. Any large-scale system that relies on complex digital information technology is potentially vulnerable.

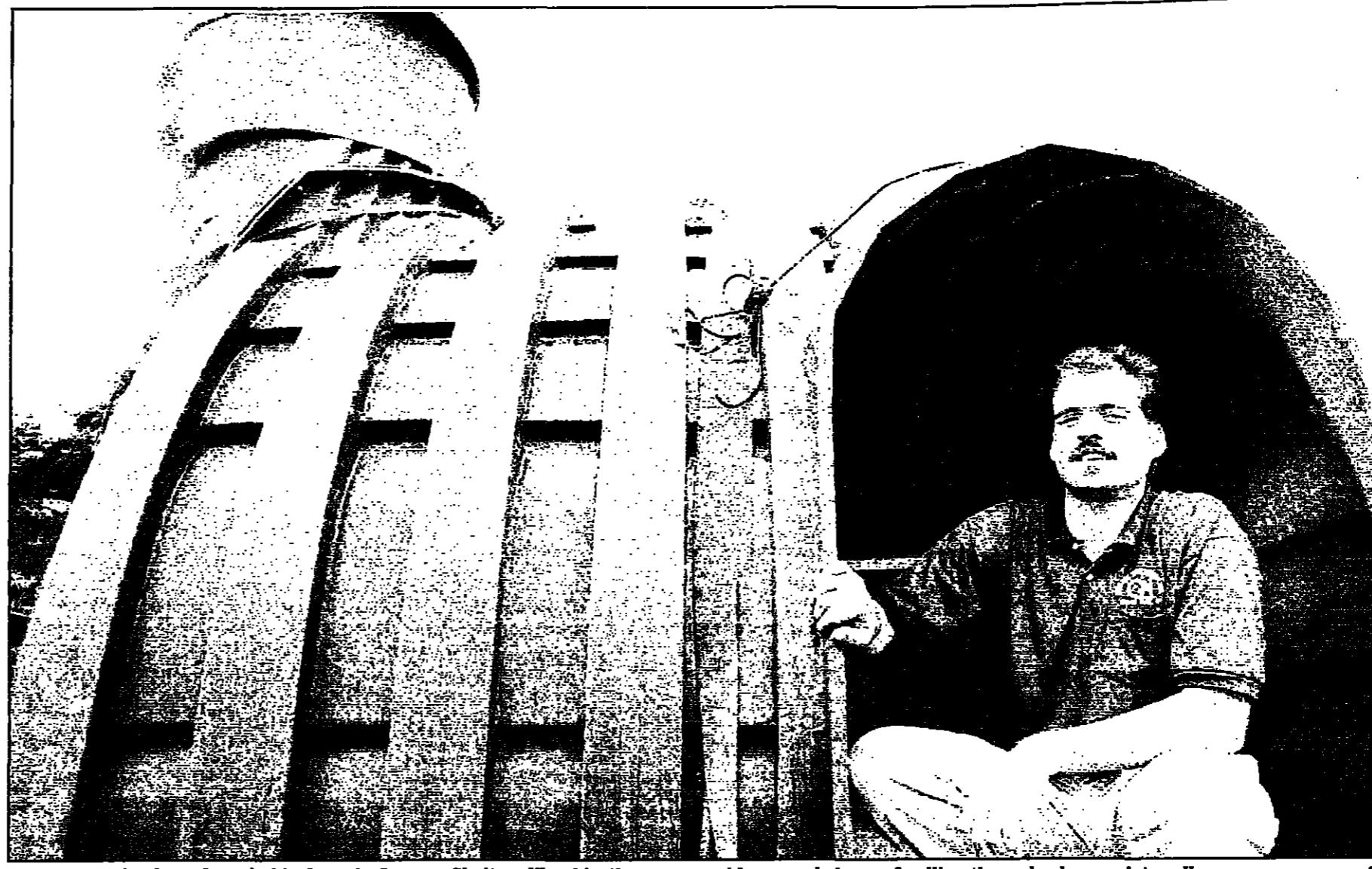
The government and private companies are beginning to spend vast sums of money to fix the date, and some experts are confident that the Millennium portends little worse than a few bumps. But some observers argue that it's already too late in the game to repair many major systems.

There is no shortage of doomsayers who are predicting a total social breakdown, complete with widespread chaos, murder and starvation. Christian economist and Y2K preacher Gary North, who dominates many discussions of the millennium bug online, estimates that "martial law will be declared no later than January 15. At that point,

While Milne plans to ride out the year 2000 by himself in his remote home, others are looking into group relocation - and soon, since some are anticipating a crisis beginning even by the fall of 1998. The Relocation board on Gary North's Web site is already generating hundreds of messages a day and many posters are hoping to move to communal safe havens, or Y2K villages, with groups of like-minded individuals.

Heritage Farms 2000 is the highest-profile of the Y2K villages that are starting to emerge. Conceived by self-titled "practical prophet" and utopian author Russ Voorhees, Heritage Farms 2000 plans to sell half-acre plots to 500 families in hopes of building an independent, self-sustaining community that won't be disturbed by the disruptions in the rest of society.

Located on 1,000 acres by Lake Oahe in remote Sooth Dakota, Heritage Farms 2000 will offer plots with gardens for permanent or mobile homes, plus a 160-acre community farm and street with a general store and other resident-founded businesses. Voorhees is planning a satellite uplink/downlink for Internet connectivity, a fiber-optic telephone system and solar- and wind-powered



A survivalist hunkers down in his dome in Oregon. Shelters like this, they say, provide our only hope of pulling through when society collapses

AP

generators. The project is still in the planning stage (it's waiting for necessary permits), but Voorhees believes he's already received enough serious inquiries to fill all of the plots.

Candace Turner, who has already taken 30 orders for her \$7,000 Survival Domes, advocates the benefits of building Y2K survival communities. When she was "Y2K born" (a phrase she uses to describe her introduction to the Millennium bug issue), Turner attempted to reach out to her friends and neighbours to

warn them about the problem, but they ignored her. So she started an outreach mailing list, which now boasts 400 people who swap Y2K survival tips on a daily basis.

"I knew that morale is half the key to success in surviving in these times, and I needed to know that there were other pockets of civilization that were going to make it too," Turner explains.

The mailing list, she says, has become her "Y2K family". Every Wednesday night, members of the

list participate in a nationwide teleconference call, when volunteers report back on their research into topics like shelter, food and seeds, finance and farming. Many, says Turner, are already planning to pool resources and buy plots of land, move into rural neighbourhoods together and form what they are calling "covenant communities". Some have already put bids on land in Turner's general locale.

Those building Y2K communities seem to share a certain idealism

about what they think they will build. In a certain sense, the utopian Y2K villages sound like a revival of the communal-living craze in the early 1970s. Of course, many of those communes didn't survive, and even veterans of ones that did - like the famous Farm in Tennessee - have doubts about the longevity of these kinds of communities.

"It's like coming together over a paranoia as opposed to some type of human bonding - the spiritual connection that people have together. That's what's going to bring you through thick and thin," says Doug Stephenson, a 25-year veteran of the Farm. "It's an awful lot of work to live that type of lifestyle; it's more that people running out there have no idea what they're getting into. We lived that way for a number of years and ate a lot of pickles."

The topic of millennial apocalypse has historically been the territory of fundamentalist Christians, prophetic doomsayers, right-wing militias and fringe groups. And though the ranks Y2K survivalists have been joined by less radical population of programmers and techies, most on

line discussions are still being dominated by extremists - most of whom have little to no background in computers.

This, say some engineers, has made it difficult to talk about the issue rationally. Robert Smith - a Los Angeles systems administrator who plans to ride out the Millennium at his father's birthplace, a small town in Ireland - puts it this way: "This is a difficult conversation to have with people. It's sort of a dirty secret. You're almost embarrassed to admit being concerned, or risk having people lump you in with the militias and bombers."

But the most visible of the year 2000 experts still scoff at the idea of running to remote locales or forming year 2000 villages, even though they themselves are advocating caution. Peter de Jager, a prominent year 2000 consultant, fears that the survivalists will trigger the chaos they are trying to avoid. "It's a self-fulfilling prophecy. We're all doomed, so let's run away - and when we run away, there's no one left to work the industry or society anymore. therefore we were right."

What's in a name? Everything. Yes, people are that judgemental about what you're called. By Emma Cook

Sharon, Tracey. You're in big trouble

WE SHOULDN'T really be surprised that first names, for many people, still define social standing. But it's perplexing to discover that as many view them as indicators of our intelligence too. It's just another aspect of British class snobbery writ large. While Sharon and Tracey are still viewed as working class, ergo link thanks to those perennial Essex stereotypes - any nomad that could happily feature in a Tatler social column, eg. Miranda, Georgia or Helena, is immediately linked with wealth and privilege and, by some logical quirks, a soaring IQ.

As long as your name ends in "a" and contains more than six letters, chances are you'll be viewed in a positive light. Yes, we really are still that judgmental when it comes to what we call each other. According to a recent survey of 3,000 people, most of us associate names with certain attributes. Last week a conference heard that 18 women's names were rated as attractive, intelligence, happiness, strong-

mindedness, and so on.

Thanks to certain media stereotypes, those that came in for the most negative reactions were, yup, you've guessed it, Sharon and Tracey. And, less obviously, Doris, who scored very low on cleverness. Lucy's, meanwhile, were seen as the most hapless. Traceys were viewed as weak-minded.

Meanwhile, any name that sounds vaguely arty, read classy, always impresses. Thus, Francesca is perceived to be attractive, sexy and feminine, according to the survey.

This is all particularly tiresome for those women who have to live with this peculiarly British brand of stereotyping. Tracey Summerell, 32 and a solicitor working in Leeds, tries to ignore the whole subject, although she says that sometimes it does get her down. "You tend to get the worst reactions over the phone when somebody doesn't know you", she says. "Initially, there's no respect, so a receptionist will say very casually: 'Oh, it's Tracey on the phone', to a client, which I resent."

Tracey admits her name has caused problems for these rea-

sons. "People even come up to me and say, 'Have you thought of changing your name?'

Essex legacy to contend with.

"I do get annoyed by the media", says Tracey. *Birds of a Feather* doesn't help. Sharon and Tracey are associated with being thick which is odd really because they do have a lot of nous about them."

It all seems to be very different in America. After all, there's Sharon Stone for a start

The characters Sharon and

Tracey may be "plucky" and a "good laugh", but the bottom line is they're "not like us".

Names are incontrovertibly a class issue. It's still hard to

imagine a Prime Minister

called Sharon, or Fifi Trixie

for that matter!

Tracey admits her name has

caused problems for these rea-

sons. "People even come up to me and say, 'Have you thought of changing your name?'

My mother phoned me recently and apologised because she knows I get grief for it. Still I love it and there's no way I'd change it."

It seems to be a different story elsewhere. Journalist Sharon Krum has lived in America for ten years and has never come across the level of

name discrimination we're sub-

ject to over here. And why

should she? After all, there's

Sharon Stone. And Grace

Kelly's society heiress in *High*

Society was called Tracey Lord.

So common-as-muck isn't an

image that instantly springs to

mind.

Sharon says, "In the United

States, you can't read class

into name in the same way. It's

more egalitarian."

Also, she says, many people use their

mother's maiden names as

Christian names, so it's im-

possible to make any judge-

ments about first names. She

says, "You can't hear some-

body's name and then guess

what they do. I think that's a

very British habit."

Sharon Nassim, 34, who

works for the Magnum photo-

graphic agency, has cleverly

sidetracked any potential

Sharon prejudice by pro-

nouncing her name differently:

Sharon as in Lesley Caron.

Sharon claims it's nothing to do

with other people's as-

sumptions, it's more to do with

her culture. "That's how it

should be pronounced", she

says firmly. "Sharon is a very

old Hebrew name. It's ex-

tremely common in Israel

where it can also be a male

name."

Thankfully, she doesn't live

in the Shetland Islands where

inhabitants wouldn't dream of

ruining their progeny's lives by

christening them Sharon. Not

because of Essex and East

Enders - up there it's slang for

cow pat.

Now, why is this Beanie

Baby any more or less ac-

ceptable than the Franklin

Mint doll? Certainly the

Mint's doll is not the tackiest

product on the market. One

image or

name and is trying to "prof-

ter" from her death.

"We don't understand how

the fund has reached their de-

cision," said a spokesman for

the Mint, which employs 300

people in the UK. "Our col-

lectables are bought by thou-

sands of ordinary and decent

British people. We fail to see

how we are somehow undig-

nated, when the fund has sanc-

tioned tubs of margarine."

The company notes that it is pled-

ging £2.5m to some of Diana's

favourite charities.

So what exactly is wrong

with such a thing? That is the

question for the future, and it

is around such questions of

taste that future crises will

occur. They are unlikely to

centre on the fund for much

longer because Mr Purkis is

making sure that things are

getting boring as quickly as

possible. In two weeks he has

accomplished a lot. The fund

has announced a mission

statement. This says it will do

no fund-raising; nor will it seek

to exploit the emotion

You ask the questions

(Such as, Jeffrey Archer, what keeps you awake at night and do you have any regrets?)

BORN IN 1940, novelist and peer, Jeffrey Archer was deputy chairman of the Conservative Party from 1985 until 1988. After leaving Oxford, he was elected to the GLC in 1966 and three years later he was elected MP for Louth. Age 34, he resigned from the House of Commons, on the verge of bankruptcy, and wrote his first novel *Not A Penny More Not A Penny Less*. Lord Archer, now standing for mayor of London, lives between London and The Old Vicarage in Grantham with his wife, Mary, and their two sons, Will and James.

Which of your books are you most proud of?
Jenny Barr, Stroud, Gloucestershire.
"Kane & Abel" and "Twelve Red Herrings".

Which authors do you most admire?
Sally Taylor, North London.
F. Scott Fitzgerald and Evelyn Waugh.

What are you reading at the moment?
Richard Holden, Beeston, Nottingham.
"The Palace Thief" by Ethan Canin.

What is your secret for a successful marriage?
Barbara Norton, Manchester.
A tolerant wife.

Why does London need a mayor?
Sheila Morris, Colchester, Essex.
Londoners need a voice to represent them at home and abroad – someone who will not only identify, but do something about the problems the capital currently faces. In particular, traffic and transport, and by that I mean congestion and pollution. There is no easy solution, but after a year's research, I am beginning to come up with some ideas.

Why do you want to be mayor?
Jayne King, Durham.
I think the position of mayor would be one of the most exciting political challenges for someone like myself who has served three years on the GLC, five years in the Commons and six years in the Lords.

Will you go to the Diana museum?
Caitlin O'Connell, Leicester.
No, I couldn't face the continual reminders of what we have lost.

What would you put in the Millennium Dome?
Dominic Ellis, Brighton, Sussex.
British inventions – to remind the next generation of the amazing and unique role Britain has played in the 20th Century.

Are you proud to be British?
Simon Field, Oxfordshire.
Yes, unquestionably.

What would you do with English football hooligans?
Chris Willis, Coventry.
Community service.



Is there a painting you have always wanted to buy?

Alan Mayer, Padstow, Cornwall.
Antonio Ciseri's "Ecce Homo".

What is your greatest regret?

Daniel Johnson, Bedzey, Kent.
Not having a daughter.

What keeps you awake at night?

Lesley Bond, Isle of Wight.
A good idea for the next book.

When you look out of your window, what do you see?

Yvonne Tonks, Edinburgh.
The River Thames and The Tate Gallery.

How will you be celebrating New Year 1999?

Donald Oldfield, Windsor.

I hope to spend it at my home in London, as I suspect the Thames will be alight with pageantry and fireworks.

And it would be foolish for me to be elsewhere, although the Red Cross have approached me about doing an auction at an event they are proposing for the Royal Albert Hall that night.

Where do you buy your clothes?

Zara Keen, Horsham, Sussex.

Mainly at Yves Saint Laurent and an Italian tailor in Washington – Nicolo's.

Would you rather write a best-seller or a novel that doesn't sell well but is critically acclaimed?

Jasper McLeaven, Bristol.

I would rather write a best-seller – better read than dead.

Do you see Lady Thatcher?

Rupert Whately, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Yes, regularly – she has an acute grasp of politics. History will rank her as one of the great prime ministers of this century.

If you wrote your own epitaph, what would it be?

Miranda Odell, Warwick.

Loyal to his friends.

Next week:
KERTH ALLEN



Please send any questions you would like to put to the author, comedian, actor and bon viveur to You Ask The Questions, Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; by fax on 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to youaskquestions.independent.co.uk by lunchtime on Friday 26 June.

They sacked teacher Claire Head for her 'eccentric' technique in the classroom. Nought out of 10 for good thinking. By Jack O'Sullivan

The decline of Miss Jean Brodie



Claire Head: 'I felt humiliated, embarrassed and I knew I'd never get back' **Adrian Dennis**

CLAIRE HEAD is flapping her arms, flying around her kitchen as she shouts "oiseau, oiseau".

It's a little disconcerting at first, coming from a 54-year-old woman. But "oiseau" is French for "bird" and her former pupils will be familiar with the performance. They also loved her growling "chien". And who could fault her impression of a "chat" stroking its long whiskers?

Mrs Head's French vocabulary lessons with the five-year-olds must have been great fun. Learning by laughing.

Like some of the best in her profession, she belongs to the comic, enthusiastic school of teaching. It's those big, blue glasses that give her away. Short, cuddly, down to earth, there is a touch of Dandy Nichols, Hilda Baker, maybe even a little Thora Hird about Claire Head. But she is also keen on keeping order in the classroom. Muriel Spark's Miss Jean Brodie would surely feel at home with Mrs Head's passion for tidy desks, respectful silence and hard work.

All in all quite a character. A bit too much, indeed, for the £1,700-a-term St David's School for girls in Ashford, Surrey. The governors fired Mrs Head last year after a number of complaints from parents. They claimed that her techniques were eccentric, oppressive and theatrical. They said the children in her class

something I love doing – a job in which children give you so much feedback. They used to run up and cuddle me, holding my hand. I was so happy. I felt amputated when I was suspended. I walked around the house, knowing my timetable, what my children were doing at that moment. It was a very emotional time. I felt humiliated, embarrassed and I knew that I would never get back to St David's. My class was told I had asthma. They wrote me little get well cards. It was all a lie.

In short, this is a story about a clash between old and new teach-

"My feeling," she says, "is that traditional methods are tried and tested and, if liberally interpreted, can be very effective. So times tables, spelling tests, punctuation, grammar and vocabulary are important. But you have to make it palatable. You have to try to be humorous. So the French lesson would have a clear aim of getting the children to learn a few words."

"But by the end of 20 minutes, those five-year-olds would have had a chance to pretend to be a oiseau, a chien or a chat. They would have had a good laugh, got out of their desks, learnt the words and their meaning and how to say them with a French accent."

It all sounds pretty sensible. But you can also see how Mrs Head's robust style annoyed some parents. She denies forcing children to eat their food, but says she did encourage them to eat, because some would leave their plates untouched, provoking complaints from parents that children were arriving home famished.

As for homework, she says, again and again, she sent letters home saying that the children should do no more than 30 minutes. But she did have them write "AMAP" at the top of their books, meaning "as much as possible" in the time allotted.

"Nine out of 10 parents," she says, "agreed with what I was doing.

The difficulties were with a few, from the Sixties generation. They did not seem to realise that a school like St David's doesn't gain its reputation by just letting children do what they feel like."

But the real problem for Mrs Head was not this cultural difference with some of the parents. It was the school's failure to bring teacher and parents together to settle problems in a less public forum. Mrs Head says she was told not to discuss complaints with parents.

"It was a nightmare situation, in which parents would complain to the head teacher and I wasn't told and I couldn't explain to them what was really going on.

"If a child works late wanting to finish her homework, then a parent will conclude either that Mrs Head has really motivated her or that she has set too much and the child is being bullied by the teacher. It is vital that a teacher and parent can talk about these things."

And there have to be better ways to deal with personality disputes involving staff and employees.

As she sees her career in tatters, Mrs Head argues that others should worry about her case. "You need someone neutral, someone you can trust, to intervene when you have problems like this with an employer. Unfortunately, I didn't."

"This isn't an issue just for teaching – it's a question for everyone."

Master of the reel classics

He wrote the music for *Star Wars*, *Close Encounters* and *Schindler's List*. His work has earned him five Oscars. Is it conceivable that John Williams has remained untouched by Hollywood glitz? By Nicole Veash

John Williams is the Beethoven of our age. You may not know the 66-year-old composer's name, but I guarantee you know his music. The five-time Oscar winner has helped forge modern popular culture. In the western world at least, his music – just like Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* or the Fifth Symphony – is instantly recognisable. Ah yes, that tune. That's the shark in *Jaws*, or Darth Vader in *Star Wars*, or the heroic Indiana Jones, or the mighty Superman. There are so many memorable moments to draw on that every one of you can hum at least one of his tunes.

But the man himself would hate me saying that. When we meet in the foyer of the Connaught Hotel in the heart of Mayfair, Williams is wearing a baggy, unassuming student jumper, his wispy white hair in a ruffled halo around his head.

"Are we a little late?" he asks politely, well aware that I'm early for our appointment. "We went out for a walk, so if you don't mind waiting for a few moments, I'll go upstairs and powder my nose."

He has worked with some of our most gifted film makers, Alfred Hitchcock, Steven Spielberg, George Lucas and Oliver Stone, and it's a relief to find Williams wholly unaffected by Hollywood's starry flamboyance. He is the first to downplay his cultural significance, despite being the industry's premier composer. As he sits, embarrassed at having his photograph taken, his manager confides that even Ennio Morricone, composer of the Clint Eastwood man-with-no-name soundtracks, says Williams is the one who will stand the test of time.

When I put this to the man himself, now wearing his trademark black crew-neck jumper and navy jacket, he is unsurprisingly humble on the take up.

"The way I see it," he says in his quiet, reserved, gentlemanly way, "is that composing a movie soundtrack is a lot like journalism because both are primarily driven by commercialism and deadlines."

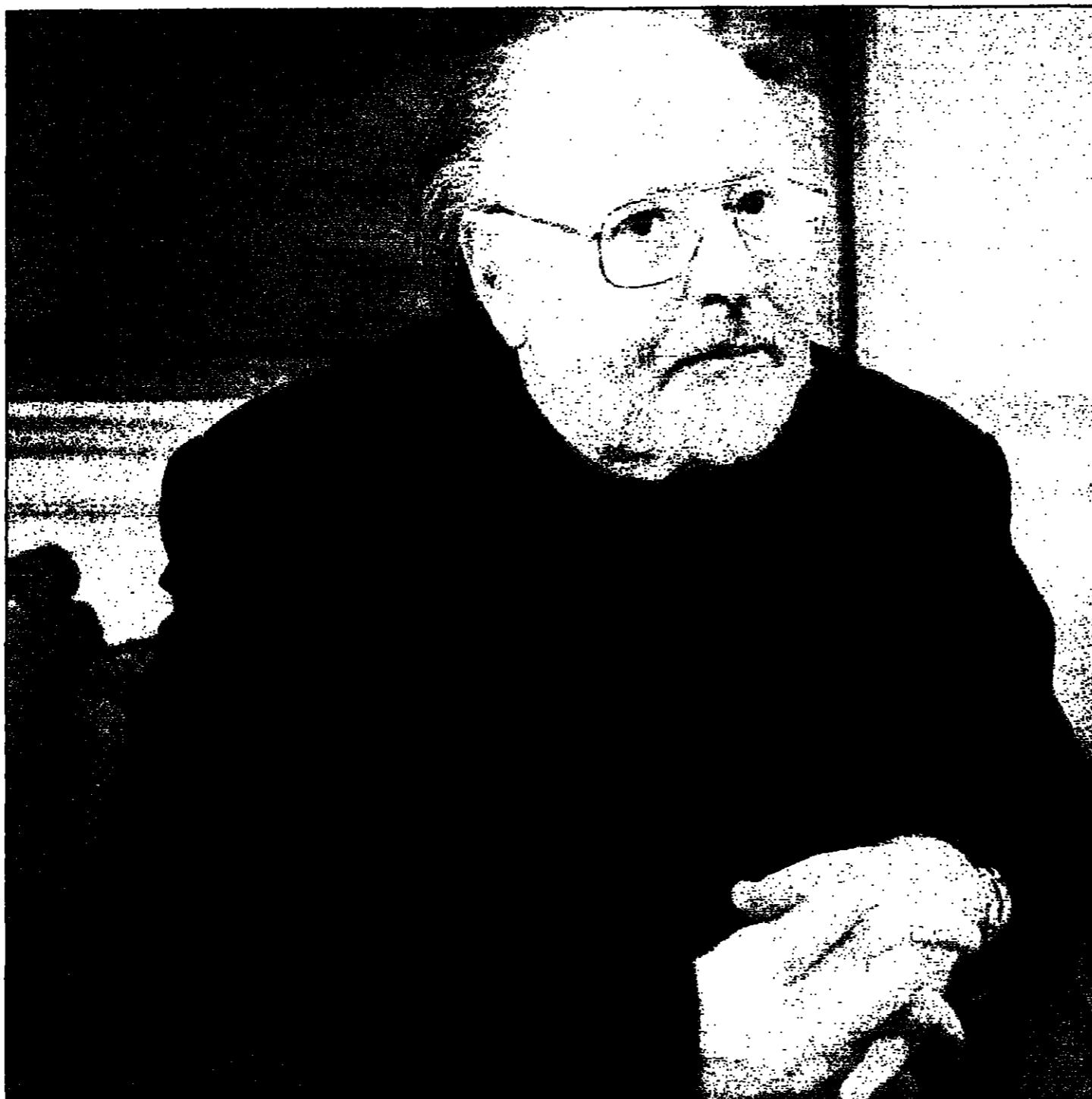
"I think only a tiny percentage of film music will fall into the classical canon, but who is to say what will be remembered and what won't?"

Born in New York, Williams grew up surrounded by musicians. When his father got a job at 20th Century Fox in the mid-Thirties, Williams tagged along to the studio to watch the movie orchestra perform. In his early twenties, with a musical apprenticeship at the prestigious Juilliard School already under his belt, "Johnny" Williams was making ends meet playing in jazz clubs.

His lucky break came at the Columbia Pictures' Orchestra as the pianist working under a stream of illustrious guest conductors, including Bernard Herrmann, composer for *Citizen Kane*, *Psycho* and *Tora! Tora! Tora!*. Eventually Williams's talent and good fortune paid off, culminating in his first Oscar as musical director for *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Although an established figure, it wasn't until the mid-Seventies that his star really took off. An executive at Universal asked him to meet "a kid on the lot" who claimed he could direct films. Williams, ever the gentleman, agreed, and took the youngster to lunch. The "kid" turned out to be Steven Spielberg.

"We've known each other for nearly 25 years now," says Williams, "and you could say it's like a marriage. We know what one another are thinking without even speaking. Very few working relationships last



Williams has worked on all Spielberg's films, including 'Close Encounters' and 'Saving Private Ryan' (below) Rui Xavier

for this length of time if there isn't friendship."

The director and composer's meeting of minds is evident in their many successful collaborations. The shark theme in *Jaws* captured the steady certainty of a man-eating danger lurking in the water, doing for the sea what Psycho did for the shower, while the ebullient Indiana Jones melody has come to

represent all our heroes.

Williams has written scores to every single Spielberg film, including the deeply moving *Schindler's List*, a divergence from his usual grand style. He's just finished writing the music to the latest Spielberg offering, *Saving Private Ryan*, starring Tom Hanks.

This is a movie about World War II for a generation who don't really

know about the sacrifice that went before them," Williams explains. "I haven't added any accompaniment to the battle scenes because they are super realistic."

"Whatever there is inside me, Steven brings it out," he says, self-effacement blushing over his features. "He's like that with everyone who works with him."

It was through Spielberg that

Williams met George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars*, with whose collaboration he went on to write, and win an Oscar for, the biggest selling orchestral soundtrack of all time: "When I was writing *Star Wars* I was writing blind. We didn't know the film was going to have the type of success it did."

"But George wanted a romantic, 19th century-inspired score, which

would provide the audience with some kind of recognisable touchstone in a tale about outer space."

Through *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, Williams developed a complex system of leitmotif, giving the characters instantly recognisable melodies. It's the length of this musical grand scheme – which he plans to add to in all three of the new *Star Wars* prequels – that has won Williams many critical plaudits.

"I haven't seen the new *Star Wars* film because I'm not due to record the score until February," he says. "I prefer to write music after seeing the rough cut of a movie and not just from a script."

"I don't really know George Lucas all that well, but I believe he is doing something unprecedented making a six-part movie saga."

"It will be interesting resuming a relationship with him after 20 years and having an unique opportunity to go back to a project and extend the volume of work."

Williams's gift for melody will ensure him a place as one of the great contributors to late 20th century cinema. His tunes have entered contemporary culture and represent musical snippets of emotion.

"I don't really know why my tunes have slipped into consciousness," he says, shrugging off an observation that most would lap up. "The hardest thing is always the signature melodies. They may be simple, but I spend more time on them than almost anything else, working out different combinations, before moving on to the rest of the score."

"For *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind*, I had about 350 five-note combinations before both Steven and myself thought enough was enough," he says, laughing quietly.

"A score should never dominate a movie. It should just accompany, and hopefully enhance, what's on the screen."

Williams has reached the top of his profession, but he still hankers to work, despite having nearly 100 film scores to his name. Somehow, he manages to find the time to write symphonic pieces to, as he gently puts it, "express another side of my musical life". And still he remains as enthusiastic, as passionate as a youngster: "I become more infatuated with music the older I get," he says. "I've been lucky enough to go through life doing something I love and not just a job. Every day I do something with music."

The man's film music genius is tied deep within him. It comes, in part, from his natural, unassuming nature. He assures me, and I believe him when he says, "I hope I'm still accessible to young film makers". He is amazingly free of the overpowering, character-destroying side of Hollywood, despite spending nearly 40 years working in the town. And he remains a man of the people: plugged into what we think, able to extract our feelings musically.

"Anybody who wouldn't want to be remembered, wouldn't be being honest," he whispers, leaning ever so slightly forward. "But the thing about life is that so few people are remembered. We live, and then we are forgotten very quickly, even by our own grandchildren."

Williams pauses. There's no remorse, no pretence in his voice, but the man underplays himself.

John Williams is conducting a selection of his film music with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Centre from tonight until Saturday. Box office: 0171-633 8891

Games played on the piano

CLASSICAL

MARTA AND GYÖRGY KURTÁG
WIGMORE HALL, LONDON

JUST AS a novelist's basic skills must start with a knowledge of how people read, so a composer's must surely relate to the psychology of listening. At Marta and György Kurtág's Wigmore Hall recital on Tuesday, featuring 30 pieces from *Játék* (Games), the enduring image was of the composer György, standing behind his wife as she played her solo interludes. Her face and the keyboard were his alternate objects of scrutiny, his ineluctable eyes and ears probing hard to record the most intimate nuance of feeling produced by his music.

Now in his early 70s, Kurtág's been listening hard for a biblical lifetime. The compositional results are fragments of music that work through judging precisely how people react to the basic elements of timbre, pitch and rhythm. By paradox, his works may seem to be written freely, just wavy lines or a couple of arrows on manuscript paper. The results, however, speak otherwise. The music, however vague its visual semblance, is full of substance and testing intrinsic musicianship. Perhaps this explains Kurtág's fierce reputation, one that has worldwide recognition, and which, in Tuesday's audience, drew some of Britain's leading young composing talent.

The framework of *Játék* was provided by piano duet arrangements of Bach chorals. Standing like unadorned columns below the florid architrave of Kurtág's own pieces, they sounded timelessly modern, as if the "games" around them were the old-style music. Indeed, some of the pieces went back to basics, rehearsing simple ideas of the kind a child could invent. *Perpetuum mobile*, part of the first group of pieces played by the composer alone (after the opening duets of *Flowers We Are, Mere Flowers* and Bach's *Aus tiefer Not*) made magical use of the waterfall effects from wiping the hands across the keys. The theatre of *Beating-Quarrelling* – a point of light relief in this well-honed act, and an emblem of the parsimony of his art – had the Kurtágés squabbling over three little notes. The sliding chords of *Harmonica*, played solo by Marta, were objects of subtle parody. In contrast, the light tone of organ pipes mimicked in Bach's *O Lamm Gottes* had a purely musical point: not satirical, but a real addition to the piano's range of timbres.

Above and beyond all this went a unity of fragments whose artistic sense was illuminated by a pre-concert performance devised by Rachel Beckles Wilson. Readings from Sapho, Kafka, Klee and others, delivered by Jane Manning, Chris Williams and Andrew Sparling tried to capture the essence of the flower without disturbing its roots. Ms Wilson herself was an expert lecturer. Her sensible descriptions of serious music would be a welcome adornment, surely, on TV or radio.

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

The triumph of a Greek myth in a Glasgow tenement block

OPERA

HEY PERSEPHONE!

SNAPE MALTINGS, ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL

An ensemble of eleven players she creates a rich kaleidoscope of sound, always inventive, never repetitive, with which to accompany the vocal line. Initial irregular stabbings of percussive noise evoke the harsh environment. The summer heat of the city seems to ooze from the tenement walls of Robin Don's design, bathed in crimson light, and from whose windows Glaswegian women watch and comment on the action below like the chorus of a Greek play. It is mirrored by the soft shimmerings of strings and wind.

All this makes for great atmosphere which is sustained throughout the first act, cul-

minating in a haunting, lyrical duet for Maeve, the daughter and her lover, John, beautifully sung by Amanda Boyd and Darren Thraenay.

None of the vocal writing in the second act seemed quite as good as this, though it was approached in the music which Ellen, the mother, and her ex-husband, James, have together. Helen Williams and Jonathan Peter Kenny were in top form, though one doesn't normally associate counter tenors with the sort of chops who beat up their daughter's lovers.

The real weakness of the second act seemed to lie in the distancing of the Persephone

FRANK CLIFF



A set of shining examples

CLASSICAL

TRIBUTE TO PETER DIAMOND,
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
BARBICAN CENTRE, LONDON

greater equanimity, so that by the time they had finished the two players were like two friends conversing on equal terms. Such artistry rightly inspired a storm of applause – and an impromptu performance of Mozart's loveliest duo-sonata slow movement.

Both expressed their gratitude in musical terms with a sparkling account of Mozart's E Flat Concerto for two pianos. Barenboim was the more playful participant, while Lupu was his more temperate alter ego. The first movement witnessed a marked contrast in their playing styles, with Lupu more prone to stress left hand material (as in the beautiful second subject). But as the concerto progressed, there was a noticeable shift towards



Claudio Abbado: unforced and agile performance

vivacious reading was among the finest I've heard, especially when it came to the caressing return of the opening theme. The third had a solemn bardic quality and ended in the spirit of infinite sadness. Still, there was a pick-me-up close to hand when Teresa Berganza joined the ECO and Claudio Abbado

for agile, unforced performances of Rossini's "Cruda sorte" from the *L'Italiana in Algeri* and the *Bizet Carmen*.

No one could pretend that the voice is as vibrant as it once was, but neither could they deny that Berganza's artistry is still very much intact. The concert closed as it had opened, with purely orchestral music. Barenboim's overture was a sprightly *Marriage of Figaro* whereas Abbado signed off with two popular movements from Schubert's *Rosamunde* ballet music – both were triminutely observed readings, generous with repeats, and crisply phrased.

As tributes go this one couldn't have concluded with greater taste or finesse. I have a feeling Diamond would have approved.

This review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper.

ROB COWAN

Games
played
on the pianoCLASSIC
MARTA 3
KUPFER

Rogues, villains, vile and loathsome monstrosities – I love them all

People love
Shakespeare's bad
boys. And actors
love to play them.
Why? It's all the
sex and violence.
Steven Berkoff
knows all about it



Bloody bawdy villain, remorseless, treacherous, lecherous, kindless villain!" Thus Hamlet hyperbolises over his stepfather Claudius. Shakespeare's villains are there to let us good people feel that we're on the right side while vicariously partaking of an illicit thrill or two until the villain achieves his just desserts.

While we detest villains for being the murderers, torturers, dictators they are, there is no lack of takers to perform the roles. So while politically conscious actors will march against tyrants like Saddam Hussein, the same actors may not find it revolting in the least to impersonate them, getting under their skin and actually enjoying it. Which actors do not relish sweeping their machine guns over the opposition, beating tough guys to a pulp and abusing women? Why should something that is utterly revolting in real life not be equally so in the recounting of it? There must be an element of villainous evil within most of us that finds an echoing thrill in the nefarious activities of the outlaw. Some germ of villainy within us all, some love of anarchy, some admiration for the bad.

To start assembling my one-man show about Shakespeare's villains I looked for links between sex and violence within the characters. The more I looked, the more I saw revealed of the villain's nature, in that there was almost always a connection in the text. Richard III discusses his inability to "strut before a wanton ambling nymph" or "court an amorous looking glass". Since he "cannot prove a lover to entertain these fair well-spoken days I am determined to prove a villain and hate the idle pleasures of these days." A perfect Freudian subtext. Lacking the possibility of power through love, you seek it through fear, intimidation and threat. The heart will beat just as fast in terror as it will in sexual ecstasy. Ergo, sex equals fear. Can I find a link through all my chosen villains, a thread that will bind them all together and make sense of my hell's kitchen of rogues? I cannot just go out on that huge stage and trot out my audition pieces. There has to be a reason, a cause, a justification. There are many kinds of villains. Some are fast moving and dangerous, while some are slower and more gradual, less threatening at first but creeping up on you.

My plan is to start with Iago, since he has the first line, is the credo for the piece. "And what's he then that says I play the villain..." Iago, a good choice I hope, but do I start with the soliloquy which few in the audience will know out of context, or should I make a short speech to describe the events? If I come out with an analytical chat about what a villain is, I will lose the momentum that a performance gives, and if I begin with Iago the audience won't have a bloody clue... Do I let the audience

appreciate the mood, the acting, pick up on a few lines, watch me in motion – and then, once the hook is in, I can jump out of character and be myself explaining the weird phenomenon that has just taken place. Or do I just do four lines and then step out of character like one of those Woody Allen films where the screen actor suddenly turns to the audience?

I try it out in Utrecht, my first date, a blustery windswept town gathering in all the debris of the fringe for its yearly festival. I sit and stare at my image in the dressing room mirror as I slowly unravel Iago's dialogue – slumped, slow and sinister. Eureka, that is it! Just start like that, so an audience will understand the mood. On stage, I describe my villain and chatter like a humble lecturer without losing the sense of performance and yakking too long.

Introduce Richard III for my second piece and ask the audience to note how many times he juxtaposes sex and violence. Get into the stance and hope that I won't be compared to Olivier, who made the speech one of the most impersonated bits of text until the Brando car scene in *On the Waterfront*. Will I be standing there like a lemon echoing the famous words with a mental hologram of Larry in front of me? I take the risk since Richard III is a numero uno villain. "...lack love's majesty to strut before a wanton ambling nymph..." Maybe add a bit of phallic name here?

So far so good – until we discuss Macbeth. My portrayal of him is in gestation. He does feel love – for his wife, for his country and his king. His love has been broken down like a moral immune system by the poisonous propaganda of his wife. We discuss this and it seems to ring a few bells and there is a little reaction from the audience. I do the speech when he is contemplating killing the King but can't make the decision, when along comes wife and screws it into him: "Screw your courage to the sticking place and we'll not fail." It's all so phallic, this talk of endless daggers and lust-walking hand in hand with killing.

But then I take a turning and play Lady Macbeth as well. This must be included so that the audience can see the actual verbal insemination, the moment of fertilisation, like a BBC documentary showing a giant close-up of the sperm entering the egg. Her villainy pouring itself into his ear, his orifice. He becomes female to her male. There is a little giggle as I sway my hips a little, and I greedily sway some more.

That seems to make a kind of sense, but next we're into Shylock. I see him as a conditioned visitor, having the sins of society visited on him, the scapegoat. I like Shylock. I come Antonio and so can step out of Shylock – which makes me feel like I have opened a window and let in some fresh air.

I follow with a study of Hamlet, playing Gertrude, Hamlet himself, Polonius and the Ghost, in order to show Hamlet's decline into a



Villainy personified: Ralph Richardson as Shylock (above) and Laurence Olivier as Richard III (right)

Keystone, MSI

racist bile implicit in the text. That's how it is and that's how it must be. Shylock must be shown as he was intended, as an out-and-out rogue, a vile and loathsome person who could easily kill someone in his mother's closet and not give a damn that he slew the wrong man. A touch of Coriolanus follows and then my strange villain – Oberon.

Apologists point out that Shakespeare tries to make him human and show the decent side, but as Arnold Wesker points out, this only makes the villain more credible – otherwise he would be two-dimensional. Even a rat takes care of its young. I do the speech in which the bargain is made: I think of the kosher butcher I used to see in Brick Lane and Middlesex Street as a child. I also become Antonio and so can step out of Shylock – which makes me feel like I have opened a window and let in some fresh air.

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person who could easily kill someone in his mother's closet and not give a damn that he slew the wrong man. A touch of Coriolanus follows and then my strange villain – Oberon.

How can a fairy be a villain? Well, doesn't he seek "this flower, this herb I showed thee once" – which is like spiking your lady's drink with LSD. Its effect is so shattering that the person drugged will leap on anything that has a protuberance – in Titania's case man or beast, even a bull.

Rather a villainous act I think. Besides which, I like the part.

Shakespeare's Villains: A Masterclass in Evil runs at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London until 8 August. (0171 930 8800). Steven Berkoff's book, *Graft: An Actor's Tale* will be published by Oberon Books on 30 July.



Robert Lepage
Elsinore
The celebrated one-man rendering of Hamlet which was technologically impressive but dramatically a little inert.

Alec McCowen
The Gospel According to St Mark
Acclaimed as the most successful one-man shows of all time, it ran for five seasons in London and New York and was taken by McCowen to Westminster Abbey as well as the White House. "I wanted to stand on stage and entertain people, like the great comics at the London Palladium, but as I don't sing or tell jokes, I thought I'd better learn something – and what about the greatest story ever told?"

Simon Callow
The Importance of Being Oscar
Michael MacLiammoir's illustrious solo about the life and work of the great one came up smelling of roses despite Callow's surprisingly subdued performance. And then there was Vincent Price. As the horroemeister's film career faltered, he took to the stage in a one-man Wilde show in the United States.

David Suchet
The Kreutzer Sonata
In the confines of the Brum Studio, upstairs at the Brum Rep in 1977, Suchet gathered the tiny audience around him and left them mesmerised with his gripping, intimate account of the Tolstoy short story in which the narrator murders his wife. One of the most powerful ever one-man shows.

Peter Greenwell
A Talent To Amuse
Coward's former accompanist pinned down Noel Coward, using his songs together with a few rarely heard poems and anecdotes. Songwriter Alan Jay Lerner once called Greenwell, "the best Noel Coward since Noel Coward."

Ken Campbell
Jarnails Vu
Campbell won the Evening Standard Comedy Award with *Jarnails Vu*, just one of Campbell's stream of evenings of inspired lunacy which have regularly poleaxed audiences with mirth at the National Theatre and everywhere else. Dubbed the great guru of Walthamstow, Campbell has said: "one-man shows might be improved by having more people in them".

DEBUT

THE ACTOR: Shezanne Powell

THE ROLE: Cora in 'No Place To Be Somebody' THE TIME: Some time in the early '70s THE PLACE: Morris Mechanic Theatre, Baltimore



The first time I had a substantial role was in a touring revival of *No Place To Be Somebody* by Charles Gordone. It was one of those gritty plays, set in contemporary Manhattan. It had won the Pulitzer Prize in 1968 and been staged on Broadway. I started out as an understudy then got a part as a lesbian prostitute.

The woman playing the lead suddenly dropped out and I got the chance I'd been waiting for. Basically the character, Cora, was the adoring girlfriend of a bartender who is under the delusion that he is a great musician. In Baltimore – the last city before going into New York – the actor playing the male lead dropped out too. Our maniac writer/director went drinking in a

Manhattan bar and decided that the best person to give the part to was the bartender, who claimed he was an actor. Much to the chagrin of everyone else, particularly me. And the guy couldn't handle it. On the opening night in Baltimore, he took a real bottle of whisky on stage with him and got progressively more drunk. We got to the scene in

which my character has foolishly spent her hard-earned money buying a new drum kit and brought it into the bar. He was supposed to start to play, freak out and curse me for putting him on the spot, but this was so far gone that the drumsticks fell out of his hands and into the orchestra pit. The guy playing the cook ran backstage while the rest of us ad-libbed furiously and, after much crashing around, came back with a couple of wooden spoons. He then started hallucinating and retreated to his dressing room. Somehow we got through to the end without him, at which point he had to be carted off to hospital. We recast, went on to New York, and on the night the play opened, the guy called

INTERVIEW BY
DOMINIC CAVENDISH

Once upon a time in the west

REVIEW

TRUE WEST
THE DRUM
PLYMOUTH

ate, craft against craftiness, in which ignorance easily defeats the intellect. Lee's script, for example, has a chasing posse run out of gas and get on their horses which, presumably, were tethered behind. The problem is that Lee can't write. He can't even spell, so you can see how the plot progresses.

True West is a finely wrought play. Shepard, working from a limited vocabulary, produces a script full of striking imaginative phrases – yet the language is at a low level. This does not prevent it from being forceful – a struggle between the two brothers is fierce and elemental. There are twinges of sentiment about their alcoholic father, but despite this lapse (and it's melodramatic finish with one twist too many) the story has a powerful grip.

The current production is a collaboration between the

Theatre Royal Plymouth and the Salisbury Playhouse, with Plymouth associate director Jennie Darnell producing the play in the round. In a fine and perfectly cast company of four, the main burden of the acting falls on Derek Riddell as the professional writer, and Michael Shaw as his dissolute brother. These two crank up the tension and inject a sense of menace into quite ordinary dialogue. In this respect the first half sounds like an American Pinter at work. Jacqueline Morgan's brief cameo as the mother accepting bad behaviour stands as a comment on the violence that is out of her control. A splendid production and a feast of close up acting.

At The Drum, Plymouth, until 11 July (01803 862935)

ALLEN SADDLER

CLOTHES LINE



OUT OF THE CLOSET

THE ACTRESS AND REFORMED FASHION VICTIM
MICHELLE COLLINS KNOWS A THING OR TWO ABOUT CLOTHES. HERE, SHE TELLS US HER STYLE SECRETS

"WHEN I was single I had more time and money for shopping; I lived in Chelsea and was popping into Joseph and Agnès b every two minutes. I must have an Agnès b cardigan in every colour. These days I do more clothes shopping for my daughter, Maia, than for myself. I live in North London and though I hate to say it, I've started to shop in Brent Cross - much easier with a child - or Hampstead, which is nearby and has great shops.

At the moment I'm into casual things, because I'm filming and rehearsing, and I'd say I'm less of a fashion victim than I was a few years ago. But I'll always enjoy dressing up. I love my Prada and Miu Miu shoes, I've got some Alexander McQueen and Abe Hamilton stuff, and lots of Ghost dresses. I've also got a Tocca dress, which is a bit Sloaney (for want of a better

word), and a few bits from Warehouse, Miss Selfridge and Oasis. There is a great shop in Portobello Road called Sub Couture which has unusual clothes. My favourite things of the moment are my Jimmy Choo black patent kitten heel mules. I've also got this fitted black leather jacket by Etam which was given to me when I did a shoot for them. It looks excellent and it's really soft; people always ask where I got it and I tell them: I'm no snob.

I feel more confident about my look at 35 than I did in my twenties. Then I had a different look every day. I have kept my Levi's jacket, which I bought 12 years ago. Now I find I need to buy less, and experiment more. If I were to give advice, I'd say never shop when you are depressed: you always make mistakes."

INTERVIEW BY
MELANIE RICKET

HOT THING

THE BUMBLE BAND



Chris Moore

ONE WEEK from now a new, must-have fashion item will be born: it's a bra strap. Liberty have ordered a few hundred, so has the Paul Windle Salon in Covent Garden and Space NK. What, you may be asking yourself, is so amazing about a bra strap? Well, last March in Milan, Ward Stegerhoek, a hairdresser from the Bumble and Bumble hair salon in New York, thought a bra strap would look good as a hair band. He cut up a girlfriend's bra (probably a Calvin Klein one), sewed the ends together, put it on a model's head and experimented. He had such fun, he cut up lots of bras and

used them at the Moschino show (above). He clipped hair up in that messy, Kirby-grip look, and added the bra strap; did a cute chignon then framed the face with the bra strap. In fact he stuck the bra strap on lots of models' heads, and for some reason it looked really "right". Before you could say "mine's a 34C", a trend was born. When one landed on our desk last week it was an instant hit. Here was a pull-to-fit band that did more than just keep hair out of eyes. It created a look. As the packaging points out: "it's all about how you position the bumble band; wear it high off the nape to frame an up-do; three inches of the hairline for the classic schoolgirl look; or right on the hairline, tiara-style." A double strand effect (my favourite) can also be created: the overlapping section is pulled apart at the temple to flatten the hair on the top of the head. The only problem with shorter hair is that this creates a controlled quiff as hair puffs up between the pulled-apart strands. I bet that's one Bumble and Bumble hadn't thought of.

bumble band £9.50, from next week at Liberty, Great Marlborough Street, London W1 0171-734 1234; Paul Windle, 41 Shorts Gardens, London WC2, 0171-497 2393; Space NK, 45-47 Brook Street, London W1 and branches 0171-299 1999.

MELANIE RICKET

It's raining. Football's on TV. So let's shop

Summertime is sale time, so take to the deserted high streets with our definitive bargain guide



0171-823 8818.
Sale now on. Reductions starting at 30% on Spring/Summer stock. 50% off selected accessories & 50% off

Fenwick, 63 New Bond Street, W1; 0171-629 9161 for branches. Sale now on. Up to 50% off summer merchandise.

French Connection, branches nationwide; 0171-399 7200. Sale now on with up to 30% off men's and women's collections.

Georgina von Etzdorf, 50 Burlington Arcade, London W1; 0171-409 7789. Sale now on. Up to 40% off current stock, more of older stock.

Ghost, 13-14 Hinde St, London W1 and 36 Ledbury Road, London W1; 0171-229 1057. Sale starts mid-August with reductions on seasonal shades and sandals.

John Lobb, 88 Jermyn St, London W1; 0171-930 8089. Sale begins 4 July until 18 July with approx. 40% off a selection of classic and contemporary men's shoes. Best buys include brown suede brogue reduced to £185 from £275.

Jones, 15 Floral Street and 13 Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, WC1; 0171-240 8312. Sale begins mid-July. Menswear, including Helmut Lang, Dirk Bikkembergs, Vivienne Westwood, Dries Van Noten and Costume Homme.

Karen Millen, branches nationwide; 01622 664032. Sale now on with reductions on selected items.

Karen Millen, 11 Floral Street, London WC1; 0171-499 8368. Sale starts today with reductions up to 50% off. Bargains include Dolce & Gabbana rose-print dress down from £965 to £399; Ann Demeulemeester man's black jacket reduced from £950 to £475.

Karen Millen, 29 Shorts Gardens, London WC2; 0171-379 4660. Sale starts from end of July.

Lauren, 12 Symons Street, London SW3; 0171-595 9566. Sale starts 11 July for up to four weeks. Up to 75% discount on shoes, wedding dresses from £69 and up to 30% discount on handbags.

Levi's, 155 New Bond St, London W1 and 179 Sloane St, SW1; 0171-499 8956. Sale begins 25 July until 1 August. Reductions of between 40-60%.

Liberty, Regent Street, London, W1; 0171-734 1234. Sale now on with up to 50% off designer labels and accessories.

London, 31 Brook Street, London, W1; 0171-491 4967. Sale begins 4 July until 25 July with 30-50% off all winter stock.

London, 43-45 Sloane Street, London, SW1; 0171-235 0008. Sale now on, reductions vary depending on item of clothing.

London, 41-43 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2; 0114-273 7827. Sale begins 3 July with up to 50% reductions.

London, 400 Oxford Street, London W1; 0171-499 2306. Sale begins tomorrow with reductions of at least 30%.

London, 36 Great Queen Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2, 0171-242 0770. Sample sale from 30 July for three days only. As well as sample stock, sale will include past and present stock with up to 60% reductions.

London, 3-5 New Bond Street, London W1; 0171-352 6622. Sale from end of July with 50% off Spring/Summer stock.

London, 26 Sloane St, SW1; 0171-235 5875. Sale begins 2 July.

London, 34-37 38-9 High St, Wimbledon Village, London SW9 and 13 Hill Street, Richmond; 0181-947 8707. Sale now on with discounts of 25-50% on Spring/Summer designer stock including Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Costume National, Miu Miu, Armani Jeans, Gucci.

London, 41-42 New Bond St, London W1 and 11-12 Gees Court, W1; 0171-629 3900. Sale now on. Great reductions on accessories and ready to wear. Reductions include Tennyson soft leather shoulder bag down to £95 from £195.

London, 19-21 Argyle Street, London, W1; 0171-278 3491. Sale now on with up to 50% off original prices. Best buys include grey pleated skirt reduced from £35 to £17, black drawstring trousers down from £40 to £20.

London, 12 Saint Christopher's Place, London, W1; 0171-487 4494. Sale now on with up to 50% off Whistles own label and designer collections.

London, 14-15 Conduit Street, London, W1; 0171-491 4911. Sale now on with up to 30% off remaining stock.

London, 33 Sloane St, London SW1; 0171-235 5839. Sale and Women, 13 New Bond St, W1; 0171-493 1800. Sale now on.

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It's a dirty old world

White clothes have a short life (unless you're a nun), so buy wisely and keep it clean. By Tamsin Blanchard

ANYBODY who has a white car will know what an utterly impractical colour it is. Sure, it gets you noticed - other cars are less likely to crash into your side on a gloomy day than if your car is black or blue. But try to keep it clean and you might as well forget it. If there is one thing guaranteed to make the skies open with sandy, silly rain, it is an hour's hard labour with a chamois leather and a bucket of soapy water.

So too with clothes. There is nothing quite as crisp or sharp as a white T-shirt. Wear white head to foot, and you will stand out in a crowd like a walking, talking advert for Daz. You will glow. You will dazzle. Wear it for five seconds however, and every dribble of boiled egg, every smudge of lipstick, and each tiny speck of grease is magnified. You no longer look crisp and fresh, but like a dirty rag. In order to keep

your whites white, you'd have to live in a sterile bubble.

Nevertheless, every year, sure as black is black, white is decreed the colour of the summer. Girl babies wear pink; boy babies wear blue. And the minute the sun comes out - apparently - we all want to wear bright white. Personally, I like to wear black. Not because I'm a fashion editor and it's part of my uniform, but because I have a habit of

putting everything into the washing machine on a hot wash, regardless of whether it is colour fast, black, orange or white. Inevitably, my whites turn pink or grey.

Whites don't stand a chance. Hang anything white on the washing line and chances are, it will get rained on before it dries and - in London or any other polluted city, at least - will turn streaky and as stiff as cardboard.

As the summer sales kick in, and as foreign holidays become a necessity to escape the great British summer, bargain hunters will be tempted by a sea of white goods. The clothes featured here are all casual and sporty, designed to be worn and washed as often as necessary (every five minutes in my case). From French Connection, there is a white towelling hooded top, perfect for throwing over a bikini after a swim in the sea. There are also boyish, flat-front trousers, made to look cool as long as you don't wear black knickers underneath them. And from Warehouse, there is a very British Velcro rain mac - useful, because it is white and summery, but it also ensures you are prepared for a downpour at all times.

According to the design team at Warehouse, whose whites include

linen zip-up jackets, and long-sleeve T-shirts (summery without being too skimpy, black and white always sell, come rain, shine, snow or sleet).

Just make sure you invest in some Daz Ultra and steer clear of any activity that involves, tea, wine, chocolate, sitting on grass, curry, UV light (too bright altogether babies or bicycle chains). Doesn't sound like much fun, but sometimes you have to suffer for fashion.



Main picture, Velcro mac, was £219, now £153, by Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 5470) and 81 King Street, Manchester. (0161-839 0059)

Top right, Chunky cotton knit, was £125, now £87 by Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-235 5470). Pencil skirt, £25, from all branches of Miss Selfridge (0181-910 1359)

Plaid thong sandals, were £75.99, now £35, from Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1, and branches nationwide (0171-629 6903)

centre right, Towelling hooded top, was £35, reduced to £30 in the sale. French Connection, 249 Regent Street, London W1 and branches nationwide (0171-399 7200)

below right, V-neck t-shirt, £16, by Warehouse, 19-21 Argyll Street, London, W1 and branches nationwide (0171-278 3491). Flat-front pants with Velcro fastening, £29.99, from

Hennes, 261-271 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-323 2211). Plimsolls, £34.95, by Superga at Russell & Bromley, as before.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Kevin Forder
STYLIST: Charlie Harrington
MAKE UP AND HAIR:
Alex Babsky at Mandy Coakley
MODEL: Nancy Hagan, Select



THERE IS a make-up revolution stirring in the aisles of a Tesco store near you. This month they have launched their own range of smart, utilitarian cosmetics, called simply "make-up". Barbara Daly, the make-up artist behind the Body Shop's highly successful Colours range, has produced a range of modern colours and applicators in cool, minimal packaging.

Daly won an OBE in 1992 for services to the make-up industry. Her most famous client was the young Lady Diana; Daly made her up on her wedding day. For the past two years, however, Daly has fo-

cused on the Tesco range. It is not a new idea - Sainsbury's had their own cosmetics line until very recently - but the concept behind the Tesco range explores uncharted waters in its focus on professional standards and packaging. In fact, the only competitor in this field is Boots' No 7 range, the market leader of affordable, readily available, quality make-up.

The perfect candidate to test whether Tesco had succeeded

was close to hand. Liz is 53, lives in Ely, near Cambridge, and as a teacher has a very busy schedule, which does not incorporate schlepping 15 miles to buy some concealer. She has survived on the No 7 range for years, with the occasional addition of Ultima II, and was a very willing guinea-pig for anything new.

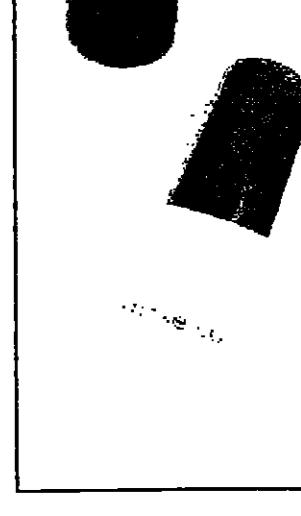
From the selection she received, the mascara came out on top, lasting all day with no

smudges, "one of the best I've ever used". The concealer was great too, at first a little off-putting in its decidedly ochre hue, but once applied "even covered my violet eye bags". Another winner was the nail varnish, which went on smoothly and dried very quickly, and lasted on the toenails, with no chips, for days.

The colours of the foundations are great, much more yellow than the normal or-

angey-pink of many cheaper make-ups: the lipsticks last well, and the cream blusher blends instantly. The eye shadow looked so good that Liz's friend decided to borrow it (a woman who rarely spends less than £20 on her make-up) and became an instant convert.

Liz said she would definitely buy most of the products she tried, although she would stick to her No 7 foundation, as the "one-step make-up" was a bit



HANNAH HUNTER

How to become a trolley dolly



too heavy. The only complaint is that it is not available in Ely, as it has so far only been targeted at the bigger stores.

Every item in the range is under £5, is not tested on animals, and comes in a wide variety of colours. Even if the concept of buying your make-up alongside your spuds and spaghetti frightens you, give it a try. It's a range of products which, in Liz's words, is "incredibly up-market for a supermarket".

Telephone Tesco's customer care line on 0800 505555 for stockists

HANNAH HUNTER

Hard questions earn the best advice*

Before entrusting a financial adviser with your money, do a bit of research. By Nic Cicutti

FINDING THE right financial adviser can seem daunting. They can baffle investors with technical terms, and it is hard to avoid the impression that they are in it for their own ends, not yours. But most of us need financial advice at some time. Here are some questions to ask an adviser:

■ Are you independent, or tied to one company? Independent advisers can give advice on a wide range of products. Tied agents or salespeople can recommend only those from the company they represent.

■ Who are you regulated by? All sales staff and financial advisers come under the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which has a list of members and will be able to tell you whether they are regulated. The identity of sales staff can be confirmed by the company they represent.

■ What qualifications do you hold?

In this case, the minimum qualification is the Financial Planning Certificate (FPC), which all advisers and salespeople must have. There is also an Advanced FPC, plus a range of pension planning and investment management qualifications.

■ How long have you been giving financial advice? The more experienced the better, preferably as an independent financial adviser.

■ How big is your firm, and how long has it been trading? It can help to know that the adviser is from a company with some financial standing. Small, independent financial advisers may not have either great investment research facilities or good administrative support. Other things to ask are whether the



A financial adviser with all the trappings of wealth could be very good at helping you make money – or good at helping himself to your money

adviser has an office or works from home, and what equipment, such as fax and computers, they use.

■ What are your areas of specialisation? Some big firms offer a broad range of advice. Smaller companies specialise in certain areas, such as pensions, mortgages or in-

vestments. It pays to find a specialist in the field you are interested in.

■ How will you be paid for the advice you give me? Commissions involve the company whose product the adviser recommends paying him for doing so. This comes out of your premiums, usually taking much

of the first years' contributions. All advisers must tell you how much commission they will earn from a policy they recommend. Fees may not always be the cheapest option, however: many advisers price their time at £100 an hour or more. If in

the two. Ask also whether the adviser is prepared to rebate some of his commission back to you.

■ How am I protected if something happens to you or your company? Advisers and insurance companies contribute to the Investors' Compensation Scheme, and are also re-

quired to have professional indemnity insurance.

■ Are you entitled to handle clients' money? Most advisers are not. They act as middlemen, passing off cheques made out to you to the investment company you have chosen. Those entitled to handle clients'

money are on a separate register held by the FSA. If in doubt, check. Be suspicious of those who expect you to make out a cheque to them rather than the company whose product you are buying.

■ Do you keep records of advice you give and any action taken? Advisers must keep proper records. They are supposed to know about your financial position, investment aims and aversion to risk. This is for your protection – so they can advise you better – and their own.

■ If I have second thoughts, can I back out of the deal? Yes. There is a 14-day cooling-off period for most investment products. The adviser should inform you about this.

Be careful if:

■ The adviser is pushy and it is hard to make him leave the house.

■ You are promised a far higher return on an investment than is available elsewhere.

■ You are asked to put money into a scheme run by the adviser, for which there is no documentation.

■ You are not asked detailed questions about your financial affairs.

■ You are asked to cash in existing investments and invest them again. A large slice of the reinvestment will go in commission.

■ You are asked to put all your eggs in one basket. It is usually better to spread your risk.

■ The adviser rolls up to your home or office in a flashy sports car. It's your money he's using to pay for it.

Call IFA Promotion (0117 9711777) for three independent advisers in your area

Rachel Fixsen shows how to get the best returns from the stock market without getting your fingers burnt

How to gamble without risk

IT'S A HARD choice. The stock market offers enticing levels of return on your investment, but is it worth the worry that a crash could decimate your capital?

Giving in to market jitters altogether and liquidating your equity investments may cost you dearly. Over the past year, £1,000 invested in the top 100 UK shares would have swelled to £1,260, while the same amount would only have reached £1,060 in an average building society account.

Guaranteed stock market products may be the answer when things are looking more than usually precarious for shares. They promise rates of return at least linked to equity perfor-

mance, but protection from the worst of any downturn in the market.

But there's always a price to pay. The downside with guaranteed products is that you won't get the full benefit from any rise in the stock market. And many require you to lock your money away for a fixed period – so they are no use if there's any chance you might need the funds in an emergency.

"Guarantees always cost money," says Janice Thomson of Chelsea Fi-

nancial Services. "A guaranteed product may pay 8 per cent, but a similar product without the guarantee might pay 10 per cent," she says.

Guaranteed equity bonds offer a share in the rise of a particular stock market index over a fixed term, but give certain guarantees about the maximum you stand to lose.

High-income bonds, offered by providers such as GE Financial Assurance and Hambros Assured, pay a fixed income over a fixed period.

At the moment Bristol & West is offering a guaranteed equity bond. You have to invest at least £500 in the

bond which runs for a five-year term. When it matures you get your capital back plus 100 per cent of the average growth in the FTSE 100, S&P 500 and Nikkei 225. If there was no growth on average, the original investment is returned.

High-income bonds, offered by providers such as GE Financial Assurance and Hambros Assured, pay a fixed income over a fixed period.

They are linked to a stock market index and provided this does not fall

over the period, you get your original capital back as well as the income. If it were to end that term lower, however, you would forfeit some of your capital in the end.

As these guaranteed and protected products vary so much, there are a number of questions you should ask before committing yourself. Does the stock market index it is based on include dividends? What happens if you do withdraw your money early? Is the yield stated

gross or net of tax? What does the index have to achieve for you to get your capital back? How does the yield compare with that of other products?

Many unit trusts offer protection against market falls by investing a proportion of their funds in derivatives. The type of derivative used is usually an "option" or contract with a third party to sell all the shares the trust holds for a fixed price. So if share prices do fall, the unit trust can use this contract to limit its loss. The

downside is that not all of the fund is actually going to work in the stock market earning a good return.

Lloyds Bank's Safety First Fund uses options to enforce a selling price floor. It fixes a "safety price" beneath which the selling price for the units cannot fall, usually for one year at a time. This price won't drop during the year, but could rise if the market makes strong enough gains.

Equity-linked Tessas are another way to play safe but not lose out altogether on stock market-linked gains.

Chelsea Financial Services: 0171-351 6022; Bristol & West: 0117 9732222; Lloyds Bank: 0800 269 062

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Take the zero option to protect your investment

WITH THE stock market having risen strongly, some clients have become nervous about investing. Although we have not seen "Joe Public" piling into the market, which is often a sign that the market may be too high, the markets' strength and volatility can be unnerving.

Consequently, clients look for safer ways to invest which still give them potential for capital growth. Over the years, a number of new products have been devised to help with this situation, the newest being "safety funds".

One of our clients was experiencing doubts about the market and wanted a low-risk equity portfolio. He didn't want to be out of the market, but he wanted an investment that offered a degree of security. Having seen the safety funds advertised, he asked for our opinion and for any other suggestions.

There are numerous funds available designed to offer protection on the downside, but also give growth potential should the market rise. These funds have drawbacks as well as strengths.

The Scottish Widows' Sheltered Growth Fund has a "floor price". This means your investment will not fall below the floor price in value. But the floor is currently approximately 10 per cent below the buying price; therefore you could lose 10 per cent before the protection works. Before buying a fund like this, you need to look at it carefully because the difference between the floor price and the buying price will alter daily, although by only a small amount. Over longer periods of time the difference can be notable.

There are other variations on this theme, but the principle is the same. AIB Govett has a Safeguard fund which limits the downside to only 2 per cent a quarter and, under some situations, you can outperform the market on the upside.

These investments definitely have a role to play, but they need to be examined carefully. In any event, this idea did not appeal to the client, so we looked at Zero Dividend Preference Shares (ZDP), an investment area often overlooked

THE FIXERS



TIM COCKERILL

'One client had doubts, he didn't want out of the market but he did want a degree of security'

There is always a chance that there will not be sufficient assets at wind-up to pay the ZDP share holders back, but this will only happen if markets are exceptionally poor because virtually all zeros have negative "hurdle rates". A hurdle rate is the percentage annual growth needed to be achieved by the investment trust to repay ZDP holders at wind-up. This means that if a hurdle rate is negative, the trust's assets can actually fall in value every year to the wind-up date and still pay out the full price to the ZDP share holders.

So, if a trust has a hurdle rate of minus 10 per cent, the trust's assets can fall in value by 10 per cent per annum to wind-up and you will still receive the wind-up price. As can be seen, these are low-risk equity investments but they will not be immune from market falls, although they are likely to fall less than shares such as Glaxo Wellcome and M&S.

It all seems a bit complex at first, and this could be why few investors know about ZDPs. Yet they are excellent investments for cautious savers. One final advantage is that the gain is deemed as a capital gain, so if you do not use your CGT allowance you may have no tax to pay. Although the shares should gradually appreciate they will fluctuate around that rising trend. They will act rather like gilts as interest rates, economic trends and sentiment affect their price movements. However, they do not fluctuate wildly and overall they tend to be fairly steady.

This is the option the client went for and we constructed a portfolio of six zeros with different wind-up dates and hurdle rates to give the client a well-spread and diversified portfolio.

Tim Cockerill is managing director at Whitechurch Securities, independent financial advisers in Bristol. Call 0117 9442266

Whitechurch Securities has published a booklet that explains split trusts and zeros. For copies call 0800 374413.

Call 0800 925 0000

RIP:
British

Once they faced extinction. Now the 'mutuals' are likely to be given a role that will take them into the next century. By Paul Gosling

Frank Field: I have a dream

TWO YEARS ago mutually-owned financial services providers seemed to be on death row, awaiting execution from members anxious to spend their windfalls. Suddenly things are different. Even if Nationwide's members vote for conversion later this month, there is a new dawn for Britain's mutuals. The Government is likely to rule that they will be the key bodies to deliver welfare services in the next century.

Conflicting rumours – and conflicting interpretations of comments by the welfare reform minister Frank Field – have been circulating for months about whether only mutuals will be permitted to offer the new stakeholder pensions. But a speech delivered by Field's parliamentary private secretary, Kate Hoey, to the Building Societies' Association on his behalf makes the role of mutuals clear. "One idea we are studying is the possibility of the development of new Approved Welfare Providers, or AWPs, as part of the reform process, a central requirement of which would be that

they are owned and controlled by their members, and therefore mutual in character," Field wrote.

These AWPs may provide many services currently delivered by the state. New stakeholder pensions, will aim to give all workers a retirement pension they can live on. Later they may also provide long-term care insurance, and run homes for the elderly and infirm.

One insurer also speculated that AWPs would eventually take over unemployment and sickness benefits, ending the state's running of the national insurance system. This was denied by a DSS spokesman. It is, though, an option for a second Labour term of government.

Field's enthusiasm for mutuals

arises from his study of the role of friendly societies and trades unions before the welfare state was created. He believes that in many ways they operated a better service than the Government now provides, and that too many disincentives to work are included in our system. Field also feels that misselling of pensions, en-

tituted by financial services businesses – or private sector providers could create associate organisations, owned by their customers, to run non-profit-making stakeholder pensions. In return the company would gain access to new customers.

"We sat round the table with Frank Field six weeks ago, and there was general agreement that mutuals were better placed because of their background to provide stakeholder pensions," he says.

But mutuals have not been wholly innocent in the misselling scandals. West Bromwich Building Society was implicated in misselling home income plans by independent financial advisers. The now converted Norwich Union itself points out that it was while it was a mutual that it missold pensions, for which it subsequently had to give redress. "Misselling was not exclusive to non-mutuals," says James Duffell, of the Norwich Union. "It was based on the size of the sales force." And, presumably, on commission arrangements for staff and the quality of their management. One option that Frank Field has flagged up is for partnerships between mutuals and the private sector. It may be that mutuals could sell products admin-

istered by financial services businesses – or private sector providers

could create associate organisations, owned by their customers, to run non-profit-making stakeholder pensions. In return the company would gain access to new customers.

The private sector is, not surprisingly, unhappy with suggestions that it could be ruled out of the AWP market. Norwich Union says that creating a further tier of organisation would make the product more expensive. Virgin Direct agrees, urging instead implementation of the Government's earlier proposal to compare the performance of financial service products through benchmarking, and committing them to low cost, easy access and fair terms.

There is, though, a warm welcome for Field's proposals from some existing mutuals. The Association of British Credit Unions said it was "excited and encouraged". In the short term credit unions would not be able to arrange stakeholder pensions themselves, but would seek partnership with building so-

cieties or mutually owned insurers.

It is hoped that the Government

would also allow credit unions to

offer mortgages and other long-

term loans. Significantly, this is one

case in which the trades unions sup-

port moving provision out of the state

sector. Unison has proposed that

only not-for-profit, mutually owned

bodies be allowed to offer stake-

holder pensions, though the union

does not intend to become an AWP

itself. The National Union of Teachers has run its own welfare provision for members since early this century.

"We got there before Frank Field," laughs an NUT spokeswoman.

Some building societies are keen

to offer a wider range of financial ser-

vices. Last weekend Frank Field also

opened discussions with the church-

es about a possible role in future wel-

fare provision; many vicars and

priests already promote local credi-

it unions.

It seems that the valedictions for

the mutuals were premature. Ring

out the bells for the new mutuals in

the new millennium.

Accountants add one and one to make a big five

Today's merger by two of the leading firms may mean that their smaller rivals must unite or die. By Roger Trapp

TODAY MARKS the beginning of a new era in accounting. The Big Six, that have held sway since the turn of the decade and the demise of the Big Eight, become the Big Five.

The merger of Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand to create PricewaterhouseCoopers was predicted to prompt a rash of amalgamations in response. But, though the initial reaction came from the now abandoned plans to form an even bigger firm out of KPMG and Ernst & Young, it looks as if the so-called second tier of accountancy firms will see the first skirmishes.

According to Phil Shohet of KATO, a consultancy specialising in practice development, the announcement of talks between Kidsons Impey and Moores Rowland could be just the start. Apparently, many medium-sized firms do not feel that they currently have the necessary "critical mass" to pick up the clients that will inevitably fall away from the increasingly globally focused big firms.

Kidsons and Moores Rowland are currently saying little about their plans. They have merely issued statements confirming that talks are underway, but warning that they are at an early stage.

Nevertheless, it is understood that the merger of Kidsons, which has 140 partners in 27 UK offices, and Moores Rowland, which has 90

partners in about 17 offices, would have certain synergies in that there is little overlap in their coverage. Additionally, Moores Rowland is part of a bigger global network – Moores Rowland International – than HLB, of which Kidsons is part.

However, there are signs that in going for mergers or acquisitions, medium-sized accountancy firms will follow too closely the model created by their larger brethren and concentrate on becoming bigger rather than better at serving clients.

In predicting many more mergers in the months and years ahead, observers worry that too many will be made for the wrong reasons. During the last recession, many small and medium-sized accountancy and law firms joined together on the basis that a troubled firm might be better off by teaming up with one that was in slightly less serious difficulties. Though that often led to subsequent mergers, as the battle to keep financial disaster at bay only intensified, there are signs that if current concerns about the economic slowdown are proved correct,

There is a general feeling that the Kidsons/Moores tie-up could amount to more of a takeover by the larger firm, because of the perception that a once well-known name has lost its way in recent years. In particular, it is understood that the

departure of a few individuals has left Moores short of tax expertise and therefore unable to offer a comprehensive service to clients.

Indeed, pressing the advantages for clients is the most compelling reason for merger, according to Mr Shohet. His view – that success will depend on firms' ability to demonstrate particular expertise in, and commitment to, certain types of clients, rather than across-the-board competence – is echoed by Zahid Fazal, marketing partner at another second-tier firm, Horwath Clark Whitehill.

While it might consider "strategic

acquisitions", his organisation is not contemplating a full-scale merger, he says. Instead, it has focused clearly on its market – the admittedly somewhat overcrowded one of growing owner-managed businesses – and is intent on securing its place in that.

Stay Hayward, having learned the lessons of the late Eighties and the Nineties, when it found itself exposed by trying to serve large clients such as Polly Peck, has also set out a strategy for serving such businesses and backed it with a high-profile advertising campaign.

As one medium-sized firm

partner said, practices like his have got to learn that there is no point in them trying to challenge the biggest practices, especially in view of the concentration of power. "If we chased multinational companies, we would go bust," he said, adding that it was not necessary to have every skill.

It is because of the perception that mergers do even less to benefit clients than they do those participating in them, that financial directors are against them. Echoing their opposition to the consolidation at the top of the profession, 52 per cent were against the move, ac-

cording to a poll published last week by Reed Accountancy Personnel and the magazine *Accountancy Age*. They said they felt there would be loss of personal contact, reduced local advice and higher fees.

However, those intent on merging will take encouragement from the view that nearly a third of FDS thought mergers would create some sort of alternative to the Big Five.

But there is another – possibly even more compelling – reason for such practices to join up: recruitment. At a time when newly qualified accountants are getting snapped up by large firms intent on

rapid expansion, as well as the City and industry, such firms have found it rather hard to attract the talent they need. Consequently, it is likely that many, particularly the smaller partnerships, are nursing serious succession problems that can possibly only be solved by the arrival of a new team.

Whatever. Any of them venturing

down this road will find that – even for a large organisation such as PwC, bolstered as it is with its armies of management consultants specialising in just this sort of activity – the work only starts with the completion of the deal.

THE TRADER

spotting subtle emotional nuances. This is a good thing, since it means I can walk around looking like a cheerleader on speed and most of the trading room will think I'm in perfectly good humour.

So I've spent a huge chunk of the day looking busy but not doing anything even remotely useful, as only people in well equipped offices can. In this respect, e-mail is a boon; you can spend hours compiling notes to your friends, sending them the latest bad-taste jokes, exchanging holiday snaps and generally messing around. What people did

before the invention of the Internet I don't know. Work, perhaps? Anyway, I've been sitting at my desk being "busy" when the phone rings and I bark out a "hello" in my best busy-trader voice. There's a short silence, then the person at the other end says in hushed tones, "It's Lynne from Recruit and Prosper. Can you talk?" That explains the conspiratorial whisper, it's my local friendly headhunter trying to entice me into a new job.

"Fire away, Lynne," I say, already feeling a bit perky. So she rattles off details of a post that sounds absolutely perfect for me, and pays half as much again as my current job. I suddenly feel much more valuable. There are people out there who want to pay me lots more money for not much more responsibility, and I love them for it.

"Tell them I'm interested," I say, and hang up. But, strangely, the minute I put the phone down, a running argument starts off in my head. The theme of this

internal discussion is "should I stay or should I go?" and it's slowly driving me insane. There are strong reasons for leaving: seeing the last of Neil, for a start, plus extra money, mental challenge, the look on Rory's face when I resign... Ranged against those, however, is an equally formidable reason to stay put: I like my job.

So, as usual, it comes down to money, and the problem is this: until I found out what Freddie was on, I was perfectly happy with what I was earning. But money isn't just a few numbers on a pay slip; it's a reflection of what the bosses think of you. And if they don't think I'm as useful as Freddie, the only thing I can do is walk away. Which would be a pity, since I enjoy my job so much.

I'm just stressing out over this when Freddie sidles over, looking distinctly shame-faced. "Erm...," he starts off. "Urr... er, look, about what I said the other night. Well, I was just showing off, really. Actually, I earn exactly the same as you."

THE FINANCIAL Services Authority is leading the way in introducing flexible pensions and other benefits for employees, in a move that could set the standard for 21st century pay schemes, says the Employers Forum on Age in a report issued this week.

The concept of giving employees freedom to choose from a "menu" of benefits has been around for some time. But it is claimed that "FlexPlan", developed with the management consultancy Towers Perrin, takes the idea further.

KPMG HAS appointed six new international managing partners and a chief executive as part of its effort to globalise itself in the aftermath of its aborted merger with fellow Big Six firm Ernst &

UPDATE

Young. Partners from several countries will join chief executive Paul Reilly on the international executive team that will report to KPMG International chairman Colin Sharman.

BINDER HAMLYN, part of the Arthur Andersen organisation, remains Britain's leading charity auditor in terms of total income audited – despite losing the audit of the Wellcome Trust. According to the *Baring Top 3000 Charities 1998* guide, published by charity information specialists CaritasData, the firm audited a total of £1.6bn in charity income last year. But Coopers & Lybrand, which today merges with Price Waterhouse, is due to claim the top place, having recently picked up both the Wellcome Trust and the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

BARCLAYS BEGINS today what it believes to be the country's largest euro account opening

programme. The bank's decision to offer euro accounts to all customers trading with members of the European Union followed research showing that only ten per cent of UK businesses were fully prepared for Economic and Monetary Union.

A FURTHER sign of a slowing in the economy is contained in figures from business information specialists, Dun & Bradstreet, showing a rise in the business failure rate. More than 10,000 businesses failed in Britain during the second quarter of the year – 9.4 per cent up on the first quarter and 4 per cent more than in the second quarter of last year.

ACCOUNTANTS ARE not as dull as they are made out to be – says a survey from financial recruitment consultancy Robert Half International. The 500 accountants of all ages claimed to have a sense of humour when it came to television programmes and boasted of such lively pursuits as shark hunting, fire breathing, tank driving, kick boxing and microlite flying.

By Paul Gosling

RIP: the Great British Company

Whether we join it or not, Emu will change the way we do business. By Jan-Willem Broekhuyzen

WHO WILL be the winners and losers when Emu comes? This question is relevant to company boardrooms, investors and consumers. The creation of a single currency is the most important development in European business for some time, and Only 400 years ago there were 300 currencies in Europe - the implosion will affect all of us, whether Britain joins or not.

And the numbers are impressive. In the UK banking sector alone the cost of compliance will be more than £35bn. Moreover, it is not only the banks that will need to update computer systems, accounting and billing systems and point-of-sale equipment. Compliance could cost the retail industry 1.1 per cent of turnover and the travel industry between 1.8 and 3 per cent of sales. But there will, of course, be offsetting benefits.

The European Union is the second largest economic zone in the world and accounts for more than half our exports. With Emu it could be greater, particularly since Britain enjoys higher productivity and has a leaner cost structure than many continental economies.

Emu will accelerate trends already underway. The new information it will create will pop up on screens in only seconds. So businesses and people will need to hasten the speed at which they respond to new opportunities and new relationships initiated by Emu. Those who respond well and fastest will become winners.

If Emu comes into force at the beginning of 1999 as planned, exchange rates will be fixed among the 11 countries expected to join the first stage. A single currency will follow in 2002. This will change the competitive landscape. The advent of Emu will generate irreversible consequences that go much beyond the introduction of a common currency.

■ Prices will be transparent and comparable. This will accelerate price convergence and put pressure on margins. ■ Foreign exchange risk will be eliminated, contributing to the emergence of truly pan-European financial markets. ■ The overall exposure of businesses to country-related risks will be changed. Some companies will become more exposed to adverse economics than others. ■ Companies will be forced to operate in a "Euro environment", which may require important operational adaptations. Whole industries will be either winners

or losers. Among the winning industries will be communications and distribution, which will administer the new business community, linking the factory to the consumer.

One immediate consequence of monetary union will be "price transparency". With prices quoted in euros across the Continent previous disparities in national pricing will become much more noticeable. And with goods now more easily traded across frontiers, courtesy of the single European market, buyers will have more choices about where to source products - and at what prices. The fact that Britain is outside the first wave of Emu makes little difference to those companies that sell in Europe: it is clear that customers will want prices quoted in euros.

This means that a buyer (in particular the wholesaler) will be able to compare prices across the Emu bloc and choose the best price from a much wider selection of suppliers. If you can get your jeans, washing machine or home insurance cheaper in another country, there is nothing to stop you doing

Trade across the EU is currently carried out in 14 currencies but cultural difference will still remain as that number falls.

There will still be 11 languages and an endless supply of national variation which some companies may turn into a source of price difference. Emu will make all countries participating equal, but not identical. Germans like their frothy-headed cold beer, the Irish prefer it darker and at room temperature. Those companies that capitalise on national preferences or develop strategies to create competitive differentiators will be successful in maintaining profit margins and market share.

Companies, as well as industries, will be divided into winners and losers in other ways. Businesses that are used to relying on cheap labour costs in southern Europe and those with poor cost management may find Emu a struggle.

Emu will help winning companies win not only Europe, but globally. Less effort will be needed to integrate pan-European activity, so more energy can be poured into global integration. Emu will serve as a springboard into global markets.

Companies in the automotive sector will recognise the urgent need to adopt a pan-European pricing strategy and to centralise their information systems. This will ensure their profitability as price convergence will work in their favour. Companies will both reduce and change the number of suppliers they use in the EU. They will benefit from economies of scale, rationalisation of transaction processes, invoicing in euros and shrewder strategic sourcing policies.

As consumers, we can all benefit from similar outcomes. Consumers will be winners. Price convergence will create one

DUBLIN
to Dresden,
from Copenhagen to Cadiz. A single currency will allow the consumer to compare the price of a fridge, PC, or pair of jeans across the Euro bloc. That will increase competition and force down prices.

How does an investor tell an Emu-winner from an Emu-loser? Certainly a winning industry - communications, distribution - is a good place to start. Beyond that, a sensitive awareness of cultural differences within the Euro bloc is vital if a company from a losing industry - such as consumer goods, automotive or direct mail - wants to buck the industry trend.

Another factor for investors to consider is how Emu will accelerate the consolidation and rationalisation of certain industries. Emu will help companies take advantage of new economies of scale. Companies

that are traded within their domestic economy will discover that their domestic economy is the whole of Europe, once trading and currency barriers have fallen. This will encourage consolidation. Our research shows that more than 50 per cent of automotive and capital goods manufacturers, chemical, pharmaceutical, consumer goods and utility companies expect to seek alliances over the coming years.

Consolidation could be beneficial for share portfolios and equity markets. But investors need to be aware of which companies could suffer margin erosion resulting from price transparency. One major European manufacturer of cleaning products has estimated that lowering prices of a key brand to the most competitive prices

in Europe would cost 40 per cent of its consolidated operating profit. Similar effects could hit downstream chemicals, steel and metals - industries that are close to the consumer through vertical integration. Investors need to be sensitive to the influence of the many assumptions made about Emu on the market which may lead to large volatility.

If Emu projects are sponsored by top management, an investor could be fairly sure that the company has Emu strategy as a high priority. And present indications are that only every other British company is addressing Emu at board level.

There are many actions that company management can take to ensure their business is a beneficiary of the changes that will result with Emu. My prediction is that Emu will most likely lead to the death of the Great British Company, because either they will have to be European or they will die.

Jan-Willem Broekhuyzen is managing director of the management consultancy A T Kearney in London.

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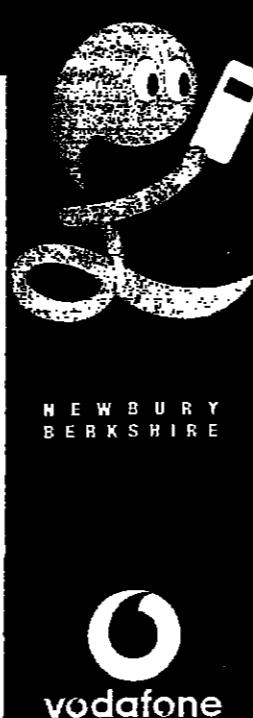
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A career of many different parts: a prospective temp is interviewed at Victoria Wall Associates

Emma Boam

The permanent temps

Temping is no longer seen as a stop-gap. It is now a profession in itself. By Rachelle Thackray

THERE ARE few things more dispiriting than sitting at home without employment, waiting in quiet desperation for the telephone to ring with offers of work. If you are looking for temporary employment - whether between jobs, or to raise enough cash to travel, or as a full-time occupation - it pays to know who will be working on your behalf to get you the best possible deal, without ripping you off in the process. Short of signing yourself up with every agency you can think of, never a good idea, as you'll end up double-booking yourself and letting most of them down, how can you ensure you get the kind of work you want, when you want it? And which agencies are the most innovative in providing perks for their temps, and listening to their needs?

The starting point for anyone in search of a friendly and reliable agency is either a word-of-mouth recommendation from a friend, a trawl through the Yellow Pages or job advertisements. There's a pretty standard recruitment procedure: some agencies will ask you to send in a CV, but others are happy to fix an appointment and grill you as to your suitability. And there's no point boasting about your lightning typing speed unless you can prove it, as you'll be thoroughly tested by their needs.

Some, such as Joslin Rowe - which places temps in City financial and insurance positions - ask for details of your past five years' work. Nabila Sadiq, director of Joslin Rowe's temp division, says: "We go through very thoroughly, checking what they have done and how we can help them. We ask that they have some kind of official training, for example. A lot of work goes into look-

ing after each temp." It's wise, say seasoned temps, not to sign up with more than three agencies at once; for tax purposes, you'll also need to decide which is your main "employer", depending on how much work each provides.

These days, the prerequisites for anyone wanting to work as a PA are dexterity, IT literacy and a professional attitude. Many agencies will request a typing speed of at least 50 words per minute, together with proficiency in the currently popular suite of Microsoft computer skills, including the packages Excel, a spreadsheet utility, and the in-

creasingly popular PowerPoint, used to create presentations. Shorthand and audio-typing are optional, but may give you added cachet; there are still some employers who are only too keen to have you sit down and take dictation.

"Clients obviously have different requirements, but the majority of bookings come in for temps with Word for Windows and other Microsoft packages," says Clare Campbell, general manager of the Grosvenor Bureau, based on Regent Street in London, which began recruiting temps in the 1950s and has carved itself a reputation as a small

but supportive agency. Like many others, it has a system which gives priority to temps who ring in at least twice a week to say they're available.

Increasingly, agencies are tar-

getting Antipodeans to work in their temporary divisions. Joslin Rowe advertises in London's TNT newspaper and in other overseas papers, as does the Grosvenor Bureau. "We tend to advertise only for Antipodeans, and we've been known to advertise in New Zealand and Australia," says Ms Campbell. "There is a good supply of temps all year round, and they don't mind what hours they work. Also, most of them

have nice, sunny personalities." Meanwhile, there has been a gradual influx of male temps, although there's a tendency to find more of them in the media world than in the City. "Some haven't got the experience; it [temping] isn't yet a male thing, really, and some don't want to do the secretarial part," said one agency spokeswoman.

Other agencies are not just targeting individual temps. Crone Corkill, one of London's largest and best-known recruitment agencies with about 800 temps on its books, recently identified a gap in the market for a complete office back-up service, and now sends out temps who have skills other than the standard PA requirements - practical and technical abilities, for example. Director Julia Stones says: "It complements the secretarial focus, and we are able to offer clients help on one agency spokeswoman.

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With the IT revolution and ensuing changes in the way we work, the temp business has undeniably gained a more alluring reputation, say those in the industry. No longer is being a temp seen as a stop-gap; often it is an ideal working solution for those who want a bit more flexibility than a standard job would offer. The work is there, and those with the skills can demand top rates. "We have a really capable elite team of people," says Julia Stones. "They are highly adaptable, highly skilled, and their attitude and approach have become much more focused because it is recognised as a profession."

Grosvenor Bureau 0171-499 6566; Crone Corkill 0171-434 4512; Victoria Wall 0171-225 1888; Joslin Rowe 0171-588 7287.

I WORK FOR FIONA JAMIESON IS PA TO DR JO GIPPS, THE DIRECTOR OF LONDON ZOO Meeting Lady Thatcher... and other big cats

I'VE ALWAYS been an animal lover. I was the kind of child who would rescue worms from the pavement and plead with my father not to destroy a wasp's nest. Perhaps it was destiny at work when I spotted the ad for secretary to London Zoo's senior curator in a newspaper someone had left on a train.

Simon, the senior curator, was very laid back, and I liked him immediately. He's in charge of the animal collection, and the first question he asked me was "What would you do if you heard that an animal was loose in the zoo?" I replied, "Close the windows!" and was invited to start work two days later.

I had my first "loose" animal experience shortly afterwards. As I was crossing the zoo to collect the post, an elephant lumbered into my path. I scooted over to meet her. I have always taken great pride in researching queries from visitors who write in to us.

People tend to project human emotions on to the animals, which can lead them to ask concerned questions, such as why the gorillas look "sad" or "bored". Recently, a rather angry man rang up with a



Fiona Jamieson with London Zoo's Mexican red-kneed, bird-eating spider... whose name is Fi Paul Rogers

number of gripes. I could feel myself taking his criticisms personally, although I knew that he was genuinely interested in the zoo. I did something I've never done before, and invited him in to talk to Jo. Jo hit the roof, but when the guy arrived Jo spent two and a half hours with him and then turned around and said, "I told Jo that she'd done the wrong thing to invite you here, but I now admit that she was right."

I've made sure that I have as much contact with the animals as possible. I've played with a baby tiger with Ken Livingstone and, whereas other people may spend their lunch hour on Oxford Street, I visit the owls or the otters. Everyone has their favourite animals.

Jo's particularly fond of the golden lion tamarin. When one of our elderly giraffes was put to sleep, a keeper cradled her head in his lap, crying. I've even conquered my fear of spiders.

After seven years in London I've decided to move to Cheltenham, but I'm leaving on a high, having had an immensely enjoyable time at the zoo.

INTERVIEW BY KATIE SAMPSON

WHAT'S THE ATTRACTION OF AN AGENCY?

ONCE UPON a time, agencies were falling over themselves to attract temps, even offering air miles and champagne as an incentive to sign up and recruit their friends. But after research showed that temps value a higher hourly rate above everything else, some agencies have taken a more subtle approach. "Our hourly rates are near the top of the list, but it's only a question of rates," insists Julia Stones of

Crone Corkill.

"Temps need to feel they are registered with an agency which is really going to look after them and find them the assignments they are going to enjoy." To that end, it has its own charter, which sets out commitments on both sides, and runs a "Temp of the Quarter" scheme, which uses reports completed by the employer to reward the best performers.

Joslin Rowe, meanwhile, is offering a £55

voucher for a popular shirt retailer, to encourage temps to get their friends to sign up. But unlike the Grosvenor Bureau, it doesn't usually give holiday pay to temps who want time off. A representative of the agency added: "If someone's been working for us for a year or two, we might offer it."

Victoria Wall Associates has a performance-related quarterly bonus scheme, and also gives workers practical help and advice (renewing their visas, for example). Like many agencies, it puts on seasonal parties, and spokeswoman Fiona Pedgri says it also angles for the best rates - a guaranteed minimum of nine pounds an hour for secretarial temps. In most cases, banks pay top whack, with insurance placements catching up and media jobs - often the most highly sought-after - still coming bottom of the pay list.

Grosvenor Bureau 0171-499 6566; Crone Corkill 0171-434 4512; Victoria Wall 0171-225 1888; Joslin Rowe 0171-588 7287.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES' LICENCE

LICENSING ACT 1964

COURT: Bromley Magistrates'

Court, London Road, Bromley

HEARING DATE/TIME: Friday 17

July 1998 at 10.00am

PREMISES: Wine Cellar, 17

High Street, Bromley, Kent

APPLICANT: Keith Vincent

Dunham

ADDRESS: 27 Westfield Road,

Ealing, London, W13

TRADE OR CRAFT: Cleaning: Operations Manager

STATEMENT: That the applicant

intends to apply at the Licensing

Authority for the said Division to

hold a public house, to authorise

the applicant to draw, sell and

serve beer, wine and cider under the

licensing Act 1964.

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JANELLE SALONS LIMITED

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FOR

Lady
... and
cats

PONETTE (PG)
Director: Jacques Dallon
Starring: Victoire Thivisol (subtitles)
Ponette is a precociously intelligent four-year-old girl whose mother dies in a car accident. While tenderly photographed, the film has nothing very sophisticated to say about grief or childhood. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Metro

JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD (U)
Director: Manoel de Oliveira
Starring: Marcello Mastroianni, Jean-Yves Gardier, Leonor Silveira (subtitles)

Featuring Marcello Mastroianni's final performance, this picture's lament that "the mind can be fine, but the wrapping deteriorates" doesn't apply to the man himself. His disposition, flecked with both mischief and weariness, is unchanged, but the film, by the 84-year-old film-maker Manoel de Oliveira, is a grave disappointment. West End: Renoir

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)
Director: Nicholas Hytner
Starring: Jennifer Aniston, Paul Rudd

Romantic comedy in which Paul Rudd confounds his flatmate Jennifer Aniston's dreams of wedding vows and joint burial plots by turning out to be gay. The film is like a primer for viewers who don't think they know what makes gay people tick, and though it can be very funny and charming, it has all the subtlety of a party political broadcast. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea.

GOING ALL THE WAY (15)

Director: Mark Pellington
Jeremy Davies, Ben Affleck, Amy Locane, Michael Weisz, Rose McGowan
An occasionally moving rites-of-passage drama with committed performances from Jeremy Davies and Ben Affleck as two soldier buddies returning to their home town. West End: ABC Piccadilly

THE WAR AT HOME (16)
Director: Emilio Estevez
Starring: Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen, Kathy Bates

Adapted from James Duff's play *Homefront*, *The War at Home* is about a traumatised Vietnam veteran returning home to his traditional family. West End: Plaza

NEW FILMS

PALMETTO (15)

Director: Volker Schlöndorff
Starring: Woody Harrelson, Elisabeth Shue
Each week seems to see the release of yet another ironic, modern film noir, the latest edition to the genre being *Palmetto*, directed by Volker Schlöndorff (*The Tin Drum*), but badly missing the wit and precision of John Dahl. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-writer and ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MIMIC (15)

Director: Guillermo Del Toro
Starring: Mira Sorvino, Jeremy Northam, Josh Brolin
Ingenious science-fiction horror fable starring Mira Sorvino as a doctor who inadvertently creates a breed of cockroach which can assume human form. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)

Director: Nick Human
Starring: Julie Walters, Brenda Blethyn, Kris Kristofferson
Shameless sexjerker with Brenda Blethyn as a cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters) and meets a wrinkled rodeo-ride (Kris Kristofferson). Initially bubbly, the picture soon becomes grossly manipulative. West End: Barbican Screen, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE WAR AT HOME (16)

Director: Emilio Estevez
Starring: Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen, Kathy Bates

Adapted from James Duff's play *Homefront*, *The War at Home* is about a traumatised Vietnam veteran returning home to his traditional family. West End: Plaza

Ryan Gilbey

GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERSHOCK (15)

Two couples swap partners and wry aphorisms in this urbane romantic comedy. West End: Richmond Filmhouse

THE APOSTLE (12)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)

Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Steve Buscemi star in one of the most strong-out mysteries ever. West End: ABC Pantown Street, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

THE BIG SWAP (18)

A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: Plaza

CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

DARK CITY (15)

Alex Proyas returns with another over-the-top urban nightmare, starring Rufus Sewell, William Burt, Kiefer Sutherland and Richard O'Brien. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)

Take a suicidal loser preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a junkie with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a kick-bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare, that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. West End: Metro

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)
Jaunty take on the rites-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

HAPPY TOGETHER (15)

Giddy tour of urban life, structured around the violently unpredictable romance between two men who arrive in Argentina from Hong Kong. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, ICA Cinema

JACKIE BROWN (15)

The movie's main focus is the desperation of its characters to make something of their lives before it's too late. West End: Plaza

JUNK MAIL (15)

This Norwegian black comedy's portrayal of the Oslo postal service is defamatory at best. Though its mixture of genres isn't entirely successful, *Junk Mail* has enough originality to see it through. West End: Ritzy Cinema

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)

A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassady, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés: blue smoke, white vests and black coffee, *laissez faire*. West End: ABC Piccadilly

LIVE FLESH (18)

A novel by Ruth Rendell is the origin of Pedro Almodóvar's most accomplished film to date. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minerva, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOLITA (15)

Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure. West End: Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey

IT'S REGRETTABLE, but perhaps not entirely surprising, that *Different For Girls* didn't earn a wider release when it opened earlier this year. I guess that comedy-dramas about post-operative transsexuals aren't box-office gold after all. But the film is a treat. Scripted by Tony Marchant (who wrote the BBC2 series *Holding On*) and beautifully performed by Rupert Graves and Steven Mackintosh, it's intelligent, provocative and tender. It doesn't forget to have fun, either.



Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne (0191-232 8289) today, 6.15pm; Thur, 4.15pm, 8.30pm
Summer is coming and soon the blockbusters will be upon us. What better opportunity to soak up some fibre to see you through the next few months of cinematic junk food? Which is another way of urging you, once again, to catch *The Apostle* (above), Robert Duvall's riveting study of human fallibility and unbending faith.

On general release

Theatre David Benedict

CHEEK BY JOWLS production of *Much Ado About Nothing* is just about the most exhilarating show in town. The tension between the

superb cast and the audience is simply electrifying and it illuminates the war between the sexes in every sense. It's a scandal that there are actually some tickets left. Grab them.

Playhouse Theatre, London WC2 (0171-839 4401) 7.30pm

There's a lot more to fare than vicars and knickers, as Joe Orton (right) proved in *Loot*. This

stunningly topsy-turvy comedy of

bank-robbing boyfriends, murderous

nurses and bent detectives, kick-

starts this year's studio season at the

Chichester Festival.

Minerva Studio, Chichester (01243-781321) 7.45pm

Theatre Royal, London EC1 (0171-837 7816) 7.45pm



On general release

ABC BAKER STREET (0171-955 9771) ABC Baker Street City Of Angels 11.15pm 3.40pm, 6.05pm 8.30pm Sliding Doors 1.30pm 3.40pm, 8.40pm The Wedding Singer 6.15pm 8.30pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0181-315 4214) Odeon Haymarket The Wings Of The Dove 3pm, 7pm (+ Mr Brown)

ODEON KENSINGTON (0181-315 4214) High Street Kensington City Of Angels 7pm, 9.45pm The Object Of My Affection 6.50pm 8.30pm Girls' Night 2.10pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Red Corner 2.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Sliding Doors 3.30pm 5.55pm, 8.40pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0181-315 4216) Marble Arch City Of Angels 12.15pm 3.05pm 5.55pm, 8.45pm, 9.30pm Deep Impact 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Girls' Night 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm, 9.30pm

ODEON PANTON STREET (0171-930 0631) Piccadilly Circus As Good As It Gets 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm The Last Time I Committed Suicide 1.30pm 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Good Will Hunting 2.10pm, 5.15pm 8.10pm

ODEON PICCADILLY (0171-437 2561) Piccadilly Circus Going All The Way 1.30pm 3.45pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm The Last Time I Committed Suicide 1.30pm 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ODEON SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0171-382 7000) Leicester Square Piccadilly Circus Live Flesh 11.15pm 3.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm Sliding Doors 1.30pm 3.35pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm

ODEON SWISS CENTRE (0171-429 4570) Leicester Square Deconstructing Harry 1.30pm 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Happy Together 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) Leicester Square The Object Of My Affection 1.30pm 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm Red Corner 12.15pm 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 9.15pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0181-581 5209) Cine Cottages Phone cinema for details: 0171-582 3057

PHOENIX CINEMA (0181-444 6789) East Finchley The Object Of My Affection 1.40pm 4.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.20pm, 9.30pm Dark City 1.30pm Girls' Night 1pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Lolita 2.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Mimic 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Palmetto 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 9.15pm

PLAZA (0171-437 1134) Piccadilly Circus The Big Swap 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.35pm Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Red Corner 3.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm The War At Home 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0171-536 6148) Tottenham Court Road City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm The Object Of My Affection 1.30pm 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

CINEMA WEST END (0171-437 1347) Leicester Square The Big Lebowski 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

ODEON WEST END (0181-315 4221) Leicester Square The Object Of My Affection 1.30pm 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Deep Impact 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Girls' Night 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

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WEDNESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

(97.9MHz FM)
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball.
9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whaley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq - The Evening Session. 8.30 Movie Update with Mark Kermode. 8.40 John Peel's Meltdown. See *Pick of the Day*. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 1.00 Cive Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Chris Moyles.

Radio 2

(88.9MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Nick Barracough. 8.00 Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy Peebles Soul Show. 10.00 Johnnie Walker. 10.30 Richard Allison. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3

(92.9MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Barber.
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. A special concert featuring the world premiere of a work by Arnold Bax written in 1916, at the height of his powers, just prior to his most famous work, *Tintagel*. Petroc Trelawny introduces the concert and talks to Sax expert Lewis Foreman. Conductor Vernon Handley. Jean Rigby (mezzo), Margaret Fingerhut (piano). Bax: In memoriam (first performance); Concertante for piano left hand; The Bard of the Dimbavitz.
9.05 Postscript: Ian Peacock attempts to understand America through its self-image on radio and television. Is it a country, an ideology or just a chaos of cultures? 3: "Niagara Falls". From a rain-swept pier on Lake Michigan, award-winning broadcaster Ira Glass attempts to decode America on his weekly national programme. Recently, he has covered every possible American concept, from Canadians to wackiness and the

PICK OF THE DAY

ONE OF the advantages of living in London is that you get to hear Peter Curran on a regular basis - and his afternoon drive-time show on GLR is remarkable for the casual way it combines rock with contemporary literature and ideas. Unfortunately, that way of doing things hasn't yet spread to Radio 1. Meanwhile, though, you can hear Curran investigating the investigators in *State of Emergency* (9pm R4), two programmes about

how scientists analyse major accidents. If it's cool DJs you're after, though, best stick to John Peel's *Meltdown* (8.40pm R1): the godlike one has been given his own personal festival of music and culture on the South Bank in London. Tonight's performers include grunge godfathers Sonic Youth - no longer so youthful, but still majestically noisy - and Ardal O'Hanlon (right).

ROBERT HANKS



cult of Frank Sinatra. He, of all people, must have an overview of what an American reality is.

9.25 A Pocket Concerto. Fitzwilliam Quartet, Lesley Schatzberger (clarinet), Weber: Clarinet Quintet in B flat, Op 34. 10.00 The Piano. With Piers Lane. "The Twentysomethings". The young Russian pianist Alexander Melnikov plays two seemingly disparate pieces written when their composers were in their early 20s: Schubert: Sonata in A, D664. Prokofiev: *Visions fugitives*.

10.45 Night Waves. A report from tonight's London opening of Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest musical, *Whistle down the Wind*. Patrick Wright talks to James Wilson about his history of Native America, *The Earth Shall Weep*. 11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Composer of the Week: C P Bach. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4

(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 Midweek.

9.45 Serial: The Doctor, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle. 10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: On Watch.

11.30 Frank Muir - a Kentish Lad Remembered.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Wordy Wise. (R)

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.45 Afternoon Play: Jack and Frances.

3.00 NEWS: Gardeners' Question Time.

3.30 Elementary My Dear Rankin.

3.45 Crime Stories.

4.00 NEWS: Case Notes.

4.30 Thinking Allowed.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Audio Diaries. (R)

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.45 Front Row. Mark Lawson presents the arts programme.

7.45 Under One Roof: Under Pressure. By Mike Walker, based on the original story by Michelle Hanson. Gillian attempts to restore the art of conversation by disconnecting the TV. Part 3 of 5. With Paola Dionisotti, Edna Dona, Luisa Bradshaw-White and Irene Sutcliffe.

8.00 NEWS: The Moral Maze.

Michael Buerk and his team of

regulars cross-examine 'witnesses'

about their views on the moral

questions behind one of the week's

headlines.

8.45 Maps for the Future. The last

of four programmes featuring

speeches of inspiration and humour

from graduation ceremonies past

and present. 4: Jodie Foster.

9.00 NEWS: State of Emergency.

After major accidents, expert

scientists are called in to work out

what happened - and how to

prevent it from happening again. In

the first of two programmes, Peter

Curran meets the disaster

detectives. See *Pick of the Day*.

9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves talks

to guests including former

Chancellor Kenneth Clarke.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Scarlet

and Black. By Stendhal, read by

Greg Wise. Mathilde's contradictory

behaviour drives Julian into a

frenzy. The Marquis sends him on a

secret mission (8/10). (R)

11.00 The Way It Is. Satire,

sketches and a hard look behind

the week's media events from

Sanjeev Bhaskar, Simon Evans,

Dave Lamb and Fiona Allen.

11.30 The Mark Steel Revolution.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Bombay Ice.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00

12.04 News Headlines; 5.00 Shipping

Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(163, 209kHz MW)

6.00 The Breakfast Programme.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Wimbledon 98.

8.00 World Cup Phone-in. With

John Inverdale. With the quarter-final places settled, have you say on the tournament so far. Call free on 0500 090693. Including the National Lottery Draw.

9.30 Reggae Boyz. Curtis Walker with a look behind the scenes at how the Jamaican team have coped with their first World Cup.

10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick Robinson. Including a late news briefing at 11.00, and at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM

(100.1-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert.

11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO

(125, 197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

7.00 Chris Evans. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Robin Banks/FM only Ray Cokes from 6.45pm. 7.30 Ray Coakes.

10.00 Mark Forrest. 2.00 Caimin Jones. 5.00 - 7.00 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE

(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Omnibus. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Meridian (Books). 4.00 World News. 4.55 World Business Report. 4.55 Sports Roundup.

4.30 The World Today (0430-0700)/*Insight* (SW 587.5kHz only).

4.45 Off the Shelf: A Simple Heart (SW 587.5kHz only). 5.30 Outlook (SW 2325kHz only). 5.55 - 6.30 Music Brief (SW 2325kHz only).

TALK RADIO

6.30 New Talk Radio Breakfast Show. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Tommy Boyd.

4.00 Peter Deely. 7.00 Anne Raeburn. 9.00 James Whale. 1.00 Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night. 5.00 - 6.30 The Early Show with Bill Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

MICHAEL ADAMS has made an excellent start to the Dortmund tournament with draws against Ivanchuk and Leko in the first two rounds and a win against Almasi in round three. It was the draw was a position in which Black had only two bishops for his queen, but his position was completely secure.

Meeting a Dragon Sicilian.

Adams took a curious byway off the main line with 9.0-0 instead of the more popular 9.Bc4! and 10.Kb1. This is a relatively new idea. The crude point is that 10...dxe4? now loses to 11.Nxd4 Qxd2 12.Nxe4+.

but the viability of the idea depends on the game continuation of 10...Nxd4 11.e5? When the knight on d4 makes its escape, White will play exd6 followed by Nxd5, retaining a good initiative.

Ivanchuk found an extraordinary counter to this plan, giving up his queen for rook and bishop. For some moves, White had to defend himself against the threats of the black rooks and bishops on the Q-side (Adams' 19.Qa5 and 20.Qe1) was a good manoeuvre to deny Black use of the b6 square for his rooks, but when Black's attack ran out of steam, White began to develop chances on the K-side.

White: Michael Adams

Black: Vassily Ivanchuk

Dortmund 1998

1 e4 c5 2 a3 Rc5

2 Nf3 d6 22 g4 Rcd5

3 d4 cxd4 23 Qg5 h5

4 Nxd4 Nf6 24 h3 b4

5 Nc3 g6 25 Qf2 Rxd3

6 Be3 Bg7 26 cxd3 Rxd3

7 f3 0-0 27 Qe2 Rh3

8 Qd2 Nc6 28 Rdi5

9 0-0-0 d5 29 Rdd2 Kg7

10 Kb1 Nxd4 30 Qe4 a5

